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# A Profile of the Manitoba Trapper from Questionnaire Analysis

By Johnson, Catherine, S. 1986

**Manitoba**
**Natural Resources**
Wildlife
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## ABSTRACT

In 1986-87, 3698 licensed Manitoba trappers were surveyed to determine their trapping habits, socio-economic status, marketing procedures and their overall concerns for the fur resource. The results were based on 1037 responses. Most respondents were male, actively trapping as a hobby and had trapped for 20 years. They farmed or performed skilled labour as a profession and lived in a rural town or village. Most were fluent in English. Leghold traps were most commonly used by respondents to capture beaver (Castor canadensis), coyote (Canis latrans), red fox (Vulpes vulpes), mink (Mustela vison) and muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus). Most respondents made less than $1000 per individual annually from fur sales and this contributed to less than 10% of their annual income. Most respondents had not attended a Department of Natural Resources fur school and were not members of the Manitoba Registered Trappers Association. Most respondents were concerned about fur prices and marketing, the anti trapping lobby and the cost of fuel and equipment. Most had some high school training.

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## DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this report to Ed Coulson, Fur Manager for the Western RTLs and Open Area for his encouragement and insight into many of the concerns expressed here. It was an all too brief association.

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## INTRODUCTION

Fur management in Manitoba in the past 40 years has depended largely upon the Registered Trapline (RTL) system (Carmichael 1973, Stardom and Bilan 1978) with variations allowing for local differences. Observations over the years have shown marked changes in the activities and attitudes of Manitoba trappers. Access to trapping areas has been greatly enhanced by development of access lanes by resource extraction activities and tourism. The methods of transportation to and on the trapline have also changed considerably. Most trappers now use motorized transportation. Trapping camps have been modernized. A plethora of government grants has aided in the purchase of equipment and upgrading the trapline (pers. commun. R.R. Stardom, Fur Research Biologist, Manitoba Wildlife Branch). However, with the increased anti-trapping sentiment and the demand for compensation in Hydro affected areas recently, it became evident that documented facts and figures about the trappers and their activities in Manitoba were lacking. Even though many facts were inherently known by fur managers and other Natural Resources personnel through experience, they had never been officially documented. This was not a unique situation, fur managers in Alberta found the same situation where Meredith and Todd (1979) instituted a questionnaire for trappers to collect the required information. To effectively undertake contemporary fur management these facts were essential.

It was felt the most economical and simplest way to gather factual information was through a questionnaire. The following is the result of this endeavour. It will be used in conjunction with fur harvest statistics to better design fur management programs in the future.

## METHODS

Trapline sections throughout the province were grouped based on geographic and cultural homogeneity (Fig. 1). Four areas were defined as follows:

Northern Registered Traplines

Eastern Registered Traplines

Western Registered Traplines

Open Area

It was decided to sample as many trappers as economically and logistically feasible due to an anticipated low response rate. Sample sizes were roughly determined by the equation:

$$n = \frac{pqN}{V(N-1) + pq}$$

where p is the probability (set to 0.5) of a positive response in a yes/no question, $q = 1 - p$, N is the population size, and $v = d/t$, the desired variance of p; d is the maximum allowable difference between the sample proportion and the true proportion and t the standard normal deviate corresponding to a tail region of $\alpha/2$ ($\alpha$ set to 0.1) (Cochran 1963). To accomplish oversampling d was set to 0.015 in the hopes of obtaining a sample with d = 0.1.

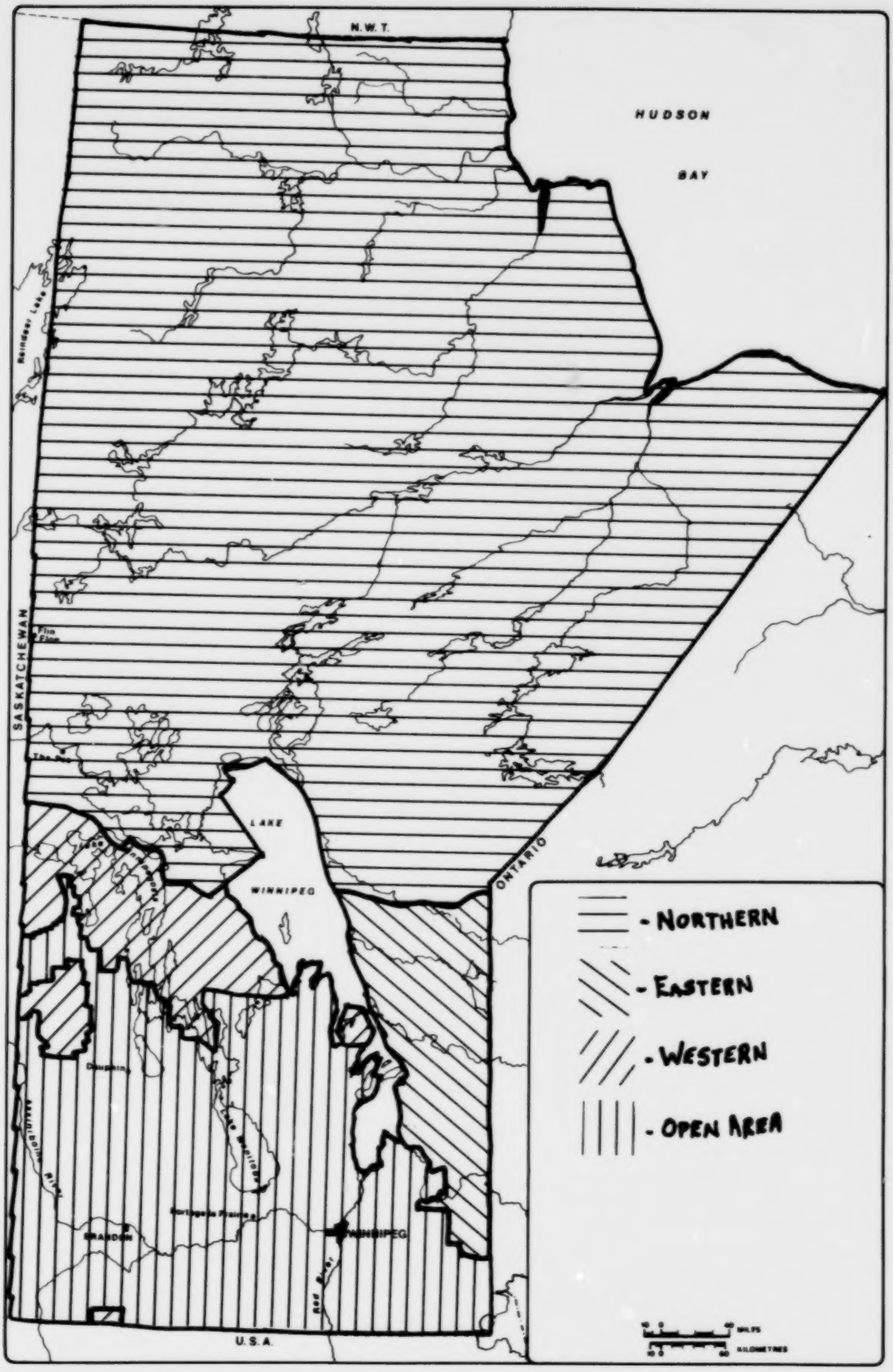


Fig. 1: Manitoba's trapline sections and divisions of sampling areas.

The basic design of the study was done with reference to Backrack and Scoble (1967), Potter et al. (1972), Williams (1978) and Satin and Shastry (1983).

The questionnaire included questions on trapping techniques and equipment, socio-economic status, marketing and use of furbearers and issues of major importance to trappers. The questions were designed to provide information from a management perspective and also give the trappers an opportunity to express their own views, ideas and comments (Appendix II). Phrasing and design of the questions was accomplished with the use of Potter et al. (1972) and Oppenhiem (1966) and with the help of a marketing professional (D. Anderson, Professor, Faculty of Administrative Studies, Department of Marketing, University of Manitoba). All answers were confidential.

Originally, selected Open Area (OA) trappers were to be surveyed by mail and Registered Trapline (RTL) trappers were to be surveyed directly by the Trapline Officer (TLO) when issuing the trappers license for the coming season. However due to an administrative misunderstanding the PTL questionnaires were inadvertently mailed with the OA questionnaires on August 5, 1986.

A reminder card (Appendix III) was mailed to all OA potential respondents approximately one month and three months after the questionnaire was sent out. TLOs and Fur Managers were to encourage those in PTL areas to return their questionnaires. Totals and percentages were tallied for active trappers of individual and total

groups and were based on only those who answered the particular question. Inactive trappers were those who responded that they "do not trap" or failed to provide key responses even though they returned the questionnaire. Active trappers were those who actively pursued furbearers and were not restricted to only those who sold fur.

The characteristics of non-respondents were assumed to be identical to those of respondents for the purpose of this study. All calculations were based on this assumption. Further investigations of the validity of this assumption may be performed in the future. This study should be considered a pilot project to help determine the most efficient sampling scheme.

Chi-square and ANOVA were the statistical tests used where necessary. Confidence intervals around proportions were calculated using the normal approximation $Z_{\alpha/2} = 1.645$ and $\alpha = .05$. The finite population correction factor was ignored because the sample was less than 10% of the population. Confidence intervals were calculated only on samples $\geq 30$.

Data were analyzed using Statpak Gold on a Compaq 286 Desikpro Computer®.

## RESULTS

Table 1 summarizes the number of trappers sampled and responses received from all trapping areas. Deceased individuals were tallied from questionnaires returned by Canada Post indicating the individual was deceased or returned by a family member indicating the same.

Table 1: Number of trappers sampled and responses received.

| Trapline Area | Total No. | No. Surveyed | No. Responded | No. required $\alpha$ =.1 & d=.1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern RTL | 2359 | 1478 | 252 | 66 |
| Eastern RTL | 358 | 260 | 51 | 57 |
| Western RTL | 554 | 350 | 76 | 60 |
| Open Area | 12,789 | 1920 | 627 | 67 |
| Deceased | | | 31 | |
| Total | 16,060 | 3698 | 1037 | 250 |

The Eastern RTLs failed to meet the required .10 level. This indicates the results for this area may not be statistically valid but are included as they are helpful information from at least a province-wide perspective. Twenty-three percent of all trappers were surveyed and 28.0% of these responded resulting in about 6.5% of all Manitoba trappers responding. Approximately 12% of all RTL trappers and 4.9% from the OA are represented.

A Chi-square goodness of fit test showed that the age distribution of responding trappers did not differ from the actual age distribution (based on licensing information) within each area ($p < 0.05$ for each area) (Tables 2 & 3, Appendix IV). The age distribution of the overall sample, however, did differ significantly from the actual. In most cases, inferences within areas and between areas were desired; therefore, the samples should be adequate for these purposes. The greatest discrepancies were found in the 16-25 year old category where fewer than expected young trappers responded and more than expected older than 55-years responded.

The response rate seemed to be directly related to the number surveyed. The larger the sample size the greater the number of responses. There was an average response rate of 19.5% for the RTL areas and 32.7% in the OA (Table 1).

Table 2: Frequency of age distribution of all trappers in Manitoba from 1984-85 fur statistics final report.

| | | Age Class | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 | | 16-25 | | 26-35 | | 36-45 | |
| Group | N | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Northern | 2,018 | 24 | 1.2 | 296 | 14.7 | 411 | 20.4 | 396 | 19.6 |
| Eastern | 432 | 1 | 0.2 | 66 | 15.3 | 76 | 17.6 | 87 | 20.1 |
| Western | 560 | 4 | 0.7 | 76 | 13.6 | 104 | 18.6 | 97 | 17.3 |
| Open Area | 12,313 | 204 | 1.7 | 2747 | 22.3 | 3168 | 25.7 | 2279 | 18.5 |
| Total | 15,323 | 233 | 1.5 | 3185 | 20.8 | 3759 | 24.5 | 2859 | 18.7 |

| | | 46-55 | | 56-65 | | 65 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Group | N | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Northern | | 385 | 19.1 | 273 | 13.5 | 233 | 11.5 |
| Eastern | | 83 | 19.2 | 71 | 16.4 | 48 | 11.1 |
| Western | | 104 | 18.7 | 102 | 18.2 | 73 | 13.0 |
| Open Area | | 1622 | 13.2 | 1220 | 9.9 | 1073 | 8.7 |
| Total | | 2194 | 14.3 | 1666 | 10.9 | 1427 | 9.3 |

Table 3: Frequency of age distribution of sampled trappers (90% confidence interval) in four major areas.

| | | Age Class | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16 | 16-25 | 26-35 | 36-45 |
| Group | N | % | % | % | % |
| Northern | 246 | 2.4±1.6 | 12.2±3.4 | 23.2± 4.4 | 17.1±4.0 |
| Eastern | 49 | 0 | 6.1±5.6 | 24.5±10.1 | 16.3±8.7 |
| Western | 74 | 0 | 6.8±4.8 | 23.0± 8.0 | 21.6±7.9 |
| Open Area | 553 | 2.0±1.0 | 19.9±2.8 | 23.5± 3.0 | 21.3±2.8 |
| Total | 922 | 1.8±0.7 | 16.1±2.0 | 23.4± 2.3 | 19.3±2.1 |

| | | 46-55 | 56-65 | 65 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Group | N | % | % | % |
| Northern | | 19.1±4.1 | 16.3±3.9 | 9.8±3.1 |
| Eastern | | 16.3±8.7 | 22.4±9.8 | 14.3±8.2 |
| Western | | 13.5±6.5 | 17.6±7.3 | 17.6±7.3 |
| Open Area | | 13.7±2.4 | 8.5±2.0 | 12.1±2.3 |
| Total | | 15.3±2.0 | 12.0±1.8 | 12.0±1.8 |

Problems occurred as a result of using the 1984-85 listing as the master list. Many trappers had moved or ceased to trap and sometimes it was very difficult to track them down. If the new address of a trapper could not be found, another trapper from the same trapline section was substituted.

Initially there was a good response rate with about 25% of all responses being received within the first two or three weeks. It took much urging to get the response rate up to the final level. The first reminder was successful in encouraging a number of trappers to return their questionnaire but the second was not nearly as successful. PTL trappers were to be reminded by the TLOs when issuing licenses and at Local Fur Council (LFC) meetings throughout the fall.

There was almost a 100% activity level of PTL area respondents versus an 88.8% activity level for the OA respondents (Table 4). Overall 92.9% of respondents were active. These values cannot be compared to the totals for all trappers gathered from production records because activity levels in that report are based on the sale of pelts and not time spent in the field. Future sampling may also tell us the characteristics of non-respondents and determine whether mostly active trappers bother to answer thus biasing the overall results.

Table 4: Number of active respondents (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | ACTIVE % |
|---|---|---|
| Northern | 252 | 99.6 ± 0.7 |
| Eastern | 50 | 100.0 ± 0.0 |
| Western | 76 | 100.0 ± 0.0 |
| Open Area | 627 | 88.8 ± 2.1 |
| Total | 1005 | 92.9 + 1.3 |

All RTLs were on Crown land. In the OA approximately 2/3 of the respondents trapped on private land. Most trapping (64.3%) was done on Crown land and 35.7% on private land by all respondents (Appendix IV).

Over half (54.3%) the active respondents lived in rural towns or villages (includes small rural cities such as Brandon, Thompson, Dauphin) (Table 5). In the Northern RTLs most lived in towns and villages (72.4%) and 27.2% lived on reserves. In the Eastern RTLs 4.0% lived in the City of Winnipeg, 74.0% lived in towns and villages and

22.0% lived on reserves. Western RTL trappers lived primarily in towns and villages (51.3%), with 25.0% living on farms, 14.5% on reserves and the remainder in the city. In the OA there was almost an even split between rural towns and farms with 11.0% living in Winnipeg.

Overall the primary language of respondents was English (83.6%) (Table 6, Appendix IV). Cree was the primary language of 12.6% of the respondents. In the Northern RTLs English was the primary language of 53.3% of respondents and Cree 44.1%. In the Eastern and Western areas English was the primary language for 82.6% and 86.1% respectively. In the OA English was overwhelmingly the primary language. To be functional in a particular language the individual should be able to speak, read and write. It was considered that being able to write was a measure of being functional in the language. This was the basis for the following calculations. On a functional basis 75.0% of the respondents in the Northern RTLs could read, write and speak English while only 17.9% could do so in Cree even though 44.1% used it as their primary language (Table 7). In the Eastern and Western areas most trappers were functional in English. In the OA 88.2% of respondents were functional in English, 9.5% in French 3.9% in Ukrainian.

The average number of years of experience was 24.1 years in the RTL and 16.9 years in the OA. The large SD indicated wide extremes in the results (range 1-80 years) (Table 8).

Table 5: Place of residence of respondents (90% confidence interval)

| Group | N | CITY % | TOWN % | RESERVE % | FARM % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 250 | 0.4 ± 0.0 | 72.4 ± 4.6 | 27.2 ± 4.7 | 0 |
| Eastern | 50 | 4.0 ± 4.6 | 74.0 ± 10.2 | 22.0 ± 9.6 | 0 |
| Western | 76 | 9.2 ± 5.4 | 51.3 ± 9.8 | 14.5 ± 6.6 | 25.0 ± 3.5 |
| Open Area | 553 | 11.0 ± 2.3 | 44.9 ± 3.6 | 1.1 ± 0.7 | 43.0 ± 3.5 |
| Total | 929 | 7.6 ± 1.4 | 54.3 ± 2.7 | 10.3 ± 1.6 | 27.7 ± 2.4 |

Table 6: Primary language used by questionnaire respondents (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | English % | French % | Cree % | Saulteaux % | Chippewyan % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 138 | 53.3±5.3 | 0 | 44.1±5.3 | 0 | 2.1±1.5 |
| Eastern | 46 | 82.6±0.9 | 0 | 2.2±3.5 | 15.2±8.7 | 0 |
| Western | 72 | 86.1±6.7 | 0 | 8.3±5.4 | 4.2±3.9 | 0 |
| Open Area | 548 | 96.5±1.3 | 1.1±0.7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 904 | 83.6±2.0 | 0.7± .4 | 12.6±1.8 | 1.3±0.6 | 0.6± .4 |

| Group | Ukrainian % | Other % |
|---|---|---|
| Northern | 0 | 0.4±0.7 |
| Eastern | 0 | 0 |
| Western | 1.4±2.3 | 0 |
| Open Area | 1.5±0.8 | 0 |
| Total | 1.0±0.5 | 0.2±0.3 |

Table 7: Respondents functional in each language (90% confidence interval)

| Group | N | English % | French % | Cree % | Saulteaux % | Chippewyan % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 228 | 75.0±4.8 | 1.8±1.5 | 17.9±4.2 | 0.9±1.0 | 2.7±1.8 |
| Eastern | 36 | 94.4±6.3 | 0 | 0 | 2.8±4.5 | 0 |
| Western | 55 | 92.7±5.8 | 1.8±3.0 | 1.8±3.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Open Area | 482 | 88.2±2.4 | 9.5±2.2 | 0 | 0.4±0.5 | 0.2±0.3 |
| Total | 816 | 83.0±2.2 | 6.3±1.4 | 5.0±1.3 | 0.6±0.5 | 0.9±0.5 |

| Group | Ukrainian % | Other % |
|---|---|---|
| Northern | 0.9±1.0 | 0.9±1.0 |
| Eastern | 0 | 2.8±4.5 |
| Western | 3.6±4.2 | 0 |
| Open Area | 3.9±1.5 | 1.7±1.0 |
| Total | 2.8±1.0 | 1.3±0.7 |

Table 8: Mean number of years of trapping experience.

| Group | N | Mean + SD |
|---|---|---|
| Northern | 240 | 22.0 ± 15.9 |
| Eastern | 50 | 27.8 ± 17.2 |
| Western | 76 | 28.9 ± 18.6 |
| Open Area | 534 | 16.9 ± 15.9 |
| Total | 909 | 19.9 ± 16.7 |

Respondents owned more traps than they used (Table 9). Almost 13% of respondents did not use any traps or snares to harvest furbearers (Appendix IV), 11.1% of those not using traps or snares were from the OA. The mean number of traps used/trapper was highest for leghold traps (all $\bar{x}$=27.0 $\pm$ SD 38.8, RTL $\bar{x}$=37.1 $\pm$ SD 42.4); however, the large SDs indicated a great degree of variation (Fig. 2). On average, approximately one dozen more leghold traps than Conibear traps per trapper were used in all areas. There were significant differences in the mean number of leghold and Conibear traps used in the Northern region and the OA ($p < 0.001$), using a two-tailed t-test. More leghold traps were used in both cases. There were no differences in the Eastern and Western areas. For all respondents there was a significant difference in the mean number of leghold and Conibear used($p < 0.001$), there were more legholds in use. A large number of snares were used in the RTL areas but few in the OA. Snares were illegal in the OA except for underwater beaver sets.

The number of various trap types (Conibear, leghold and snares) being used by respondents were compared between the RTL areas (Northern, Eastern and Western). These data exhibited non-normality and heterogeneity of variances; therefore, the Box-Cox method of determining the best transformation (Sokal and Rohlf 1981) was employed to make the data more closely satisfy the assumptions of ANOVA.

Table 9: Trap types and mean number owned and used by respondents

| Group | Snares Owned N | Mean ±SD | Snares Used N | Mean ± SD | Padded Owned N | Mean± SD | Padded Used N | Mean+ SD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 225 | 70.0 ± 130.6 | 214 | 59.8 ± 132.8 | 231 | 1.1 ± 6.5 | 229 | 1.1 ± 6.4 |
| Eastern | 47 | 29.2 ± 34.1 | 44 | 23.8 ± 31.1 | 48 | 1.2 ± 6.0 | 46 | 0.9 ± 5.9 |
| Western | 72 | 38.6 ± 53.8 | 64 | 23.6 ± 38.7 | 72 | 0.1 ± 0.3 | 71 | .1 ± 0.3 |
| Open Area | 530 | 4.1 ± 18.3 | 516 | 1.6 ± 9.5 | 534 | 0.4 ± 2.9 | 530 | 0.4 ± 2.9 |
| Total | 874 | 25.3 ± 75.4 | 838 | 19.3 ± 73.0 | 885 | 0.6 ± 4.3 | 876 | 0.6 ± 4.2 |

Table 9: Continued

| Group | Conibear Owned N | Mean ± SD | Conibear Used N | Mean ± SD | Leghold Owned N | Mean + SD | Leghold Used N | Mean+ SD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 241 | 27.9 ± 45.8 | 223 | 23.5 ± 40.4 | 239 | 48.4 ± 58.8 | 223 | 38.2 ± 44.5 |
| Eastern | 48 | 31.5 ± 36.1 | 46 | 28.9 ± 39.6 | 47 | 60.3 ± 73.6 | 44 | 36.7 ± 38.2 |
| Western | 73 | 29.8 ± 29.9 | 67 | 23.5 ± 24.9 | 74 | 50.7 ± 54.0 | 63 | 32.5 ± 37.0 |
| Open Area | 534 | 11.3 ± 20.2 | 489 | 8.9 ± 17.4 | 529 | 27.9 ± 44.5 | 483 | 19.8 ± 33.7 |
| Total | 896 | 18.3 ± 31.9 | 825 | 15.1 ± 28.5 | 889 | 37.0 ± 52.5 | 813 | 26.8 ± 38.4 |

Table 9: Continued

| Group | Other Owned N | Mean± SD | Other Used N | Mean+ SD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 228 | 2.2 ± 10.5 | 223 | 2.0 ± 10.1 |
| Eastern | 47 | 0.7 ± 3.7 | 47 | 0.6 ± 3.7 |
| Western | 74 | 6.3 ± 16.9 | 72 | 4.7 ± 12.3 |
| Open Area | 553 | 1.7 ± 11.9 | 530 | 1.3 ± 9.2 |
| Total | 882 | 2.2 ± 11.8 | 872 | 1.7 ± 9.5 |

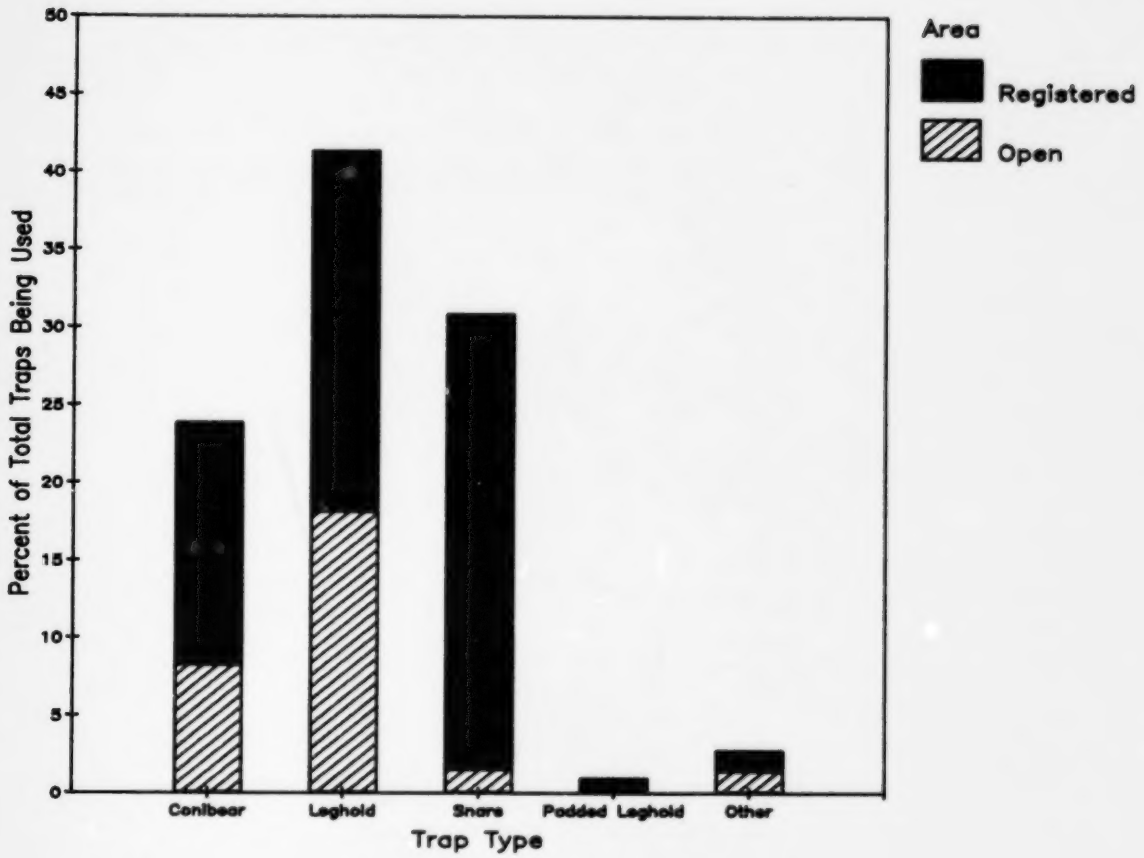


Fig. 2: Frequencies of trap types used by respondents.

In all cases the transformation Ln (number of traps used + 1) yielded the best transformation (1 was added to alleviate problems of Ln(0)). This transformation was also used in the t-test comparisons of the number of traps between the RTL area and the OA for consistency. Padded legholds and other trap types were not compared because of small sample sizes.

There were no significant differences within the RTL areas, in the means of the transformed data for the number of Conibear, legholds and snares used (ANOVA p=0.18, p=0.57, p=0.06 respectively). There were, however, significant differences between the RTL areas (combined) and the OA for the three trap types using a two tailed t-test ($p < 0.001$) in all three cases. The OA trappers used fewer traps than the RTL trappers.

The frequency of firearm use was as follows: 27.0% did not use, 50.4% used some of the time and 22.5% used most or all of the time (Table 10). Those who used a firearm some of the time probably only carried it to dispatch animals caught in their traps. The probability distribution of firearm use did not differ significantly between RTL areas (p=0.75) but the probability distribution differed significantly between RTLs and the OA ($p < 0.001$). Firearms were used more often in the OA than in the RTLs.

Overall most respondents were part-time trappers, spending less than 6 weeks with traps set (Table 11). The distinction between a

part-time and a full-time trapper was arbitrarily made at the 7 week mark. If traps were set for less than seven weeks they were considered part-time trappers and more than seven weeks they were full-time trappers. Full-time muskrat trappers were not taken into account. This season is usually only six weeks long. There was a significant dependency of the number of weeks spent trapping on age ($p=0.026$). The 26-35 year age group spent the most time trapping. The older than 35 year categories spent less time than the 25-35 year olds but more time than those younger than 26 (Appendix IV).

Table 10: Frequency of firearm use for furbearer harvest(90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | Do Not Use % | Use Some Time % | Use Most of Time % | Use All of Time % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 250 | 34.4± 4.9 | 54.4± 5.2 | 8.4±2.9 | 2.8±1.7 |
| Eastern | 50 | 40.0±11.4 | 48.0±11.6 | 4.0±4.6 | 8.0±6.3 |
| Western | 76 | 42.1± 9.3 | 47.4± 9.4 | 5.3±4.2 | 5.3±4.2 |
| Open Area | 552 | 20.5± 2.8 | 49.3± 3.5 | 14.7±2.5 | 15.6±2.5 |
| Total | 928 | 27.0± 2.4 | 50.4± 2.7 | 11.6±1.7 | 10.9±1.7 |

Table 11: Average number of weeks spent pursuing furbearers by respondents (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | 1 Week % | 2-3 Weeks % | 4-6 Weeks % | 7-10 Weeks % | 11-20 Weeks % | 21 Weeks % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 242 | 20.2±4.3 | 14.5±3.7 | 19.4±4.2 | 19.4±4.2 | 10.3± 3.9 | 10.3±3.2 |
| Eastern | 47 | 8.5±6.7 | 12.8±8.0 | 21.3±9.8 | 17.0±9.0 | 31.9±11.2 | 8.5±6.7 |
| Western | 74 | 16.2±7.1 | 12.2±6.2 | 25.7±8.4 | 20.3±7.7 | 9.5± 5.6 | 16.2±7.1 |
| Open Area | 527 | 20.1±2.9 | 25.8±3.1 | 28.1±3.2 | 14.4±2.5 | 9.2± 2.0 | 3.4±1.3 |
| Total | 890 | 19.2±2.2 | 20.9±2.2 | 25.2±2.4 | 16.4±2.0 | 11.7±1.8 | 6.6±1.4 |

Just over 54% of Northern respondents could be considered part-time trappers, while it was 42.6% in the East, 54.1% in the West and 74.0% in the OA.

Overall, the major species trapped for in descending order were beaver (Castor canadensis), coyote (Canis latrans), red fox (Vulpes vulpes), mink (Mustela vison) and muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus) (Table 12). The concentration on specific species varied from area to area depending upon the species distributions and population levels. For example the major species in the North and East were beaver, fisher (Martes pennanti), mink, muskrat and otter (Lutra canadensis) while coyote and red fox become prominent in the West and OA where they occurred in higher densities.

Table 12: Frequency with which furbearing species were trapped/hunted for by respondents (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | Badger % | Bear % | Beaver % | Coyote % | Ermine % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 251 | 0 | 0 | 22.1±4.3 | 0.8±1.7 | 0.9±1.8 |
| Eastern | 50 | 0 | 0.6±3.3 | 26.7±6.3 | 0.6±3.3 | 1.7±5.5 |
| Western | 76 | 0 | 0.8±3.0 | 23.7±7.5 | 15.6±9.4 | 3.5±6.1 |
| Open Area | 557 | 1.9±1.6 | 1.4±1.4 | 11.6±3.3 | 22.5±3.3 | 3.8±2.2 |
| Total | 934 | 1.0±1.0 | 0.9±0.9 | 16.6±2.7 | 14.2±2.7 | 2.8±1.5 |

| Group | Fisher % | Lynx % | Marten % | Mink % | Muskrat % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 14.0± 5.2 | 1.5±2.3 | 4.4±3.8 | 20.0± 4.7 | 11.8± 5.11 |
| Eastern | 20.3±10.7 | 1.2±4.6 | 7.0±9.9 | 11.0±11.3 | 12.8±11.5 |
| Western | 5.8± 7.5 | 1.6±4.2 | 3.9±6.4 | 14.8± 9.5 | 20.6± 8.7 |
| Open Area | 1.5± 1.4 | 0.4±0.8 | 0.4±0.7 | 9.7± 3.2 | 9.3± 3.1 |
| Total | 6.7± 2.2 | 0.9±0.9 | 2.3±1.3 | 13.3± 2.7 | 11.2± 2.6 |

| Group | Otter % | Raccoon % | Red Fox % | Arctic Fox % | Squirrel % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 11.0± 5.1 | 0 | 7.9± 4.7 | 2.7±3.1 | 1.1±2.0 |
| Eastern | 7.6±10.2 | 0 | 9.3±10.9 | 0 | 1.2±4.6 |
| Western | 0 | 1.2±3.7 | 2.3± 5.1 | 0 | 4.3±6.6 |
| Open Area | 0.1± 0.3 | 8.4±3.0 | 18.9± 3.5 | 0.3±0.7 | 6.7±2.8 |
| Total | 3.7± 1.7 | 4.8±1.9 | 13.6± 2.7 | 1.0±0.9 | 4.5±1.9 |

| Group | Wolf % | Wolverine % |
|---|---|---|
| Northern | 1.0±1.9 | 0.7±1.6 |
| Eastern | 0 | 0 |
| Western | 1.9±4.7 | 0 |
| Open Area | 3.3±2.1 | 0 |
| Total | 2.3±1.4 | 0.2±0.4 |

The trapping income and necessity of this income varied from area to area (Tables 13 & 14). Overall 77.7% of all respondents made less than $1,000 in a year from fur sales. In the RTL districts trappers made more on average. In the OA 92.4% of the respondents made less than $1000 on average. There was no significant difference in the probability distribution of trapping income between the RTL areas ($p=0.83$). A Chi-square test indicated there was a significant difference in the probability distribution of trapping income between the RTLs combined and the OA ($p<0.001$). Trapping income was dependent upon the number of weeks spent trapping, for the RTLs ($p<0.001$) and for all respondents ($p<0.001$).

Table 13: Average yearly income from fur sales (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | $100 % | $101-500 % | $501-1000 % | $1001-2000 % | $2001-5000 % | $5000 % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 237 | 10.5±3.3 | 2.4± 4.8 | 17.7±4.1 | 22.8± 4.5 | 19.4±4.2 | 2.1±1.5 |
| Eastern | 44 | 9.1±7.1 | 25.0±10.7 | 18.2±9.6 | 27.3±11.0 | 18.2±9.6 | 2.3±3.7 |
| Western | 72 | 6.9±4.9 | 29.2± 8.8 | 26.4±8.5 | 18.1± 7.5 | 11.1±6.1 | 8.3±5.4 |
| Open Area | 509 | 45.8±7.9 | 35.6± 3.5 | 11.0±2.3 | 4.1± 1.5 | 2.8±1.5 | 0.8±0.6 |
| Total | 862 | 31.0±2.6 | 32.3± 2.6 | 14.5±2.0 | 11.6± 1.8 | 8.8±1.6 | 1.9± .8 |

The necessity of this income was greater in the RTL districts than in the OA. Over 15% of Northern respondents depended upon this income for over 50% of their annual income. Twenty per cent of these trappers considered trapping their main occupation and 31.7% considered trapping their major income source (Appendix IV). Overall however, the trapping income made up less than 10% of the annual income of most (58.3%) respondents. These figures may not be particularly accurate owing to the small sample sizes. Trapping income could not be compared to total income because results of total income were unusable. It was evident that the question was not answered accurately when individuals refused to answer or obviously underrated their income based on their occupation.

Table 14: Proportion of total yearly income derived from trapping (90% confidence interval)

| Group | N | 10 % | 11-25 % | 26-50 % | 51-75 % | 76-100 % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 83 | 43.4± 9.0 | 26.5± 8.0 | 14.5± 6.4 | 8.4±5.0 | 7.2±4.7 |
| Eastern | 25* | 36.0 | 44.0 | 12.0 | 8.0 | |
| Western | 32 | 31.3±13.5 | 37.5±14.1 | 25.0±12.6 | 6.3±7.0 | 0 |
| Open Area | 138 | 77.5± 5.8 | 12.3± 4.6 | 3.6± 2.6 | 2.9±2.4 | 3.6±2.6 |
| Total | 278 | 58.3± 4.9 | 22.3± 4.1 | 10.1± 3.0 | 5.4±2.2 | 4.0±1.9 |

*Sample size too small to reliably calculate the 90% confidence interval.

In the Northern RTLs 65.5% of respondents ate the meat of furbearers which would most likely be beaver, muskrat and lynx (Lynx canadensis). The percentages decreased as one moved from the least urbanized areas toward the City of Winnipeg (Table 15). Overall 26.7% of respondents ate the meat of furbearers. Probability of eating the meat of furbearers between the RTL areas was significantly different (Chi-square, $p < 0.001$). The probability distribution of eating meat was significantly different between the combined RTL areas and the OA ($p < 0.001$) with the Northern area eating the most and the OA the least. The greater number of trappers used furbearer carcasses for bait (41.7%). Overall a great proportion of the carcasses were used for purposes other uses than just for the pelt. Almost 20% of all respondents used some of their fur catch themselves for handicrafts and their own garments. There was a significant difference in the probability distribution of fur use between all areas (Chi-square, $p < 0.001$). The greatest use was found in the Northern area, (32.2% of respondents).

The reason most frequently indicated for trapping in the RTLs was income while a hobby was most frequently indicated in the OA (Table 16). Tradition played a large part of the RTLs, especially the Northern area.

Very few of the respondents had attended a Department of Natural Resources fur school (89.8% had not attended)(Table 17). However a marginal increase in the number attending was seen over the past five years.

Table 15: Uses made of meat of furbearers and private use of fur (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | Eat % | Bait % | Dog Food % | Other % | N | Use Fur % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 249 | 65.5± 5.0 | 57.4±5.2 | 19.7± 4.1 | 3.2±1.8 | 245 | 32.7±4.9 |
| Eastern | 50 | 34.0±11.0 | 78.0±9.6 | 38.0±11.3 | 6.0±5.5 | 50 | 22.0±9.6 |
| Western | 75 | 25.3± 8.3 | 49.3±9.5 | 36.0± 9.1 | 2.7±3.1 | 73 | 2.7±3.1 |
| Open Area | 545 | 8.4± 2.0 | 30.1±3.2 | 20.6± 2.9 | 4.2±2.9 | 539 | 26.3±2.6 |
| Total | 919 | 26.7± 1.2 | 41.7±2.7 | 22.5± 2.3 | 3.9±1.1 | 907 | 19.8±2.2 |

Table 16: Reasons for trapping indicated by respondents ( 90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | Income % | Predator Control % | Hobby % | Tradition % | Other % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 248 | 62.5± 5.1 | 4.8±2.2 | 20.2± 4.2 | 43.1± 5.2 | 6.0±2.5 |
| Eastern | 50 | 72.0±10.4 | 12.0±7.6 | 26.0±10.2 | 42.0±11.5 | 4.0±4.6 |
| Western | 76 | 65.8± 9.0 | 7.9±5.1 | 31.6± 8.8 | 27.6± 8.4 | 2.6±3.0 |
| Open Area | 542 | 24.2± 3.0 | 23.2±3.0 | 68.7± 3.3 | 11.1± 2.2 | 3.5±1.3 |
| Total | 916 | 40.6± 2.7 | 16.4±2.0 | 50.2± 2.7 | 22.8± 2.3 | 4.1±1.1 |

Sixteen per cent of active respondents had not heard of the Manitoba Registered Trappers Association (MRTA), 62.9% were aware of the organization but were not members and 21.0% were paid up members (Table 18). Fewer than 10% of RTL respondents had not heard of it and 22.4% of OA respondents had not heard of it. In the neighbourhood of 50% of RTL respondents were not members with 49.3% of Western respondents being paid up members. In the OA 85.3% were not members and only 8.1% were.

Table 17: Attendance at fur schools by questionnaire respondents (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | Never Attended % | Attended 1985-86 % | Attended 1980-84 % | Attended Before 1980 % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 249 | 87.6±3.4 | 3.2±1.8 | 3.6±2.0 | 5.6±2.4 |
| Eastern | 50 | 76.0±9.9 | 14.0±8.1 | 8.0±6.3 | 2.0±3.3 |
| Western | 76 | 75.0±8.2 | 13.2±6.4 | 6.6±4.7 | 5.3±4.2 |
| Open Area | 547 | 94.1±1.7 | 3.3±1.3 | 2.0±1.0 | 0.5±0.5 |
| Total | 922 | 89.8±1.6 | 4.7±1.1 | 3.1±1.0 | 2.4±0.8 |

Table 18: Respondents membership in MRTA (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | Never heard of % | Not a member % | Paid member % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 248 | 7.7 ± 2.8 | 54.4 ± 5.2 | 37.9 ± 5.1 |
| Eastern* | 5 | 8.0 | 56.0 | 36.0 |
| Western | 75 | 4.0 ± 3.7 | 46.7 ± 9.5 | 49.3 ± 9.5 |
| Open Area | 545 | 22.4 ± 2.9 | 69.5 ± 3.2 | 8.1 ± 1.9 |
| Total | 918 | 16.1 ± 2.0 | 62.9 ± 2.6 | 21.0 ± 2.2 |

*Sample size too small to reliably calculate 90% confidence interval.

Fur auction houses and local buyers handled most of the fur sold (Table 19). In the RTLs 41.3% of respondents used fur auction and 44.6% used local buyers. In the OA 50% used auctions and 35.7% used local buyers. Other parts of the animals such as beaver castors, were sold by 24.5% of respondents (Table 20). There were 21.9% of respondents who sold fur privately to other individuals (Table 20).

Table 19: Where fur was sold by questionnaire respondents (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | Fur Auction % | Fur Table % | Local Buyer % | Travelling Buyer % | Sell to Other % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 249 | 37.8± 5.1 | 14.9±3.7 | 43.0± 5.2 | 2.4±1.6 | 2.0±1.5 |
| Eastern | 50 | 44.0±11.6 | 2.0±3.3 | 46.0±11.6 | 8.0±6.3 | 0 |
| Western | 76 | 42.1± 9.3 | 5.3±4.2 | 44.7± 9.4 | 6.6±4.7 | 1.3±2.2 |
| Open Area | 538 | 50.0± 3.5 | 2.8±1.2 | 35.7± 3.4 | 3.7±1.3 | 7.8±1.9 |
| Total | 913 | 45.7± 2.7 | 6.2±1.3 | 39.0± 2.7 | 3.8±1.1 | 5.3±1.2 |

Table 20: Frequency of respondents selling fur privately and those selling parts of furbearers(90% confidence interval).

| Group | Sell Privately N | Sell Privately % | Sell Parts N | Sell Parts % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 247 | 23.1±4.4 | 246 | 26.8±4.7 |
| Eastern | 48 | 16.7±8.9 | 97 | 59.2±7.6 |
| Western | 74 | 29.7±8.7 | 75 | 48.0±8.7 |
| Open Area | 528 | 20.6±2.9 | 533 | 16.9±2.7 |
| Total | 897 | 21.9±2.3 | 903 | 24.5±2.4 |

The topics of concern most frequently indicated by respondents were fur prices and marketing procedures, the anti-trapping movement and the cost of fuel and equipment (Table 21). Some concerns varied from area to area; hydro was more important in the Northern RTLs while bush clearing was a concern in the OA. Fur prices and cost of equipment were not as great concerns to OA trappers as to RTL trappers.

The trapping community was primarily male (97.7% of respondents) (Table 22). The age distribution showed a small peak in the 26-35 age group (Fig. 3). The trapping community encompassed few junior trappers ($<$ 16 years) and those $>$ 65 years represented over 10% of respondents (Fig. 2). Over 30% of the respondents were over the age of 56. The RTL age distribution was fairly even for each age category beginning at 26 years although there were few young trappers represented. A Chi-square test indicated a significant dependency of fur income by the 26-35 year old age group ($p < .001$). These trappers produced the most, followed closely by those respondents over the age of 55.

Table 21: Frequency of concerns indicated by questionnaire respondents (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | Fur Prices % | Anti-Trapping % | Trapping Seasons % | Bush Clearing % | Humane Traps % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 244 | 53.7± 5.3 | 33.6± 5.0 | 16.4±3.9 | 8.2±2.9 | 9.0±3.0 |
| Eastern | 48 | 50.0±11.9 | 39.6±11.6 | 14.6±8.4 | 16.7±8.9 | 10.4±7.3 |
| Western | 74 | 45.9± 9.5 | 28.4± 8.6 | 16.2±7.1 | 8.1±5.2 | 8.1±5.2 |
| Open Area | 515 | 36.1± 3.5 | 34.0± 3.4 | 7.6±1.9 | 15.1±2.6 | 5.2±1.6 |
| Total | 881 | 42.6± 2.7 | 33.7± 2.6 | 11.1±1.7 | 12.7±1.9 | 6.8±1.4 |

Table 21: Continued

| Group | Cost of Equipment % | Hydro % | Fur Farms % | None % | Other % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 46.7± 5.3 | 30.7±4.9 | 3.3±1.9 | 1.2±1.2 | 3.7±2.0 |
| Eastern | 31.3±11.0 | 6.3±5.8 | 4.2±4.7 | 6.4±5.8 | 6.4±5.8 |
| Western | 40.5± 9.4 | 1.4±2.2 | 4.1±3.8 | 2.7±3.1 | 3.7±6.3 |
| Open Area | 16.1± 2.7 | 1.4±0.8 | 1.4±0.8 | 14.6±2.6 | 6.0±1.7 |
| Total | 27.5± 2.5 | 9.8±1.6 | 2.3±0.8 | 9.4±1.6 | 5.8±1.3 |

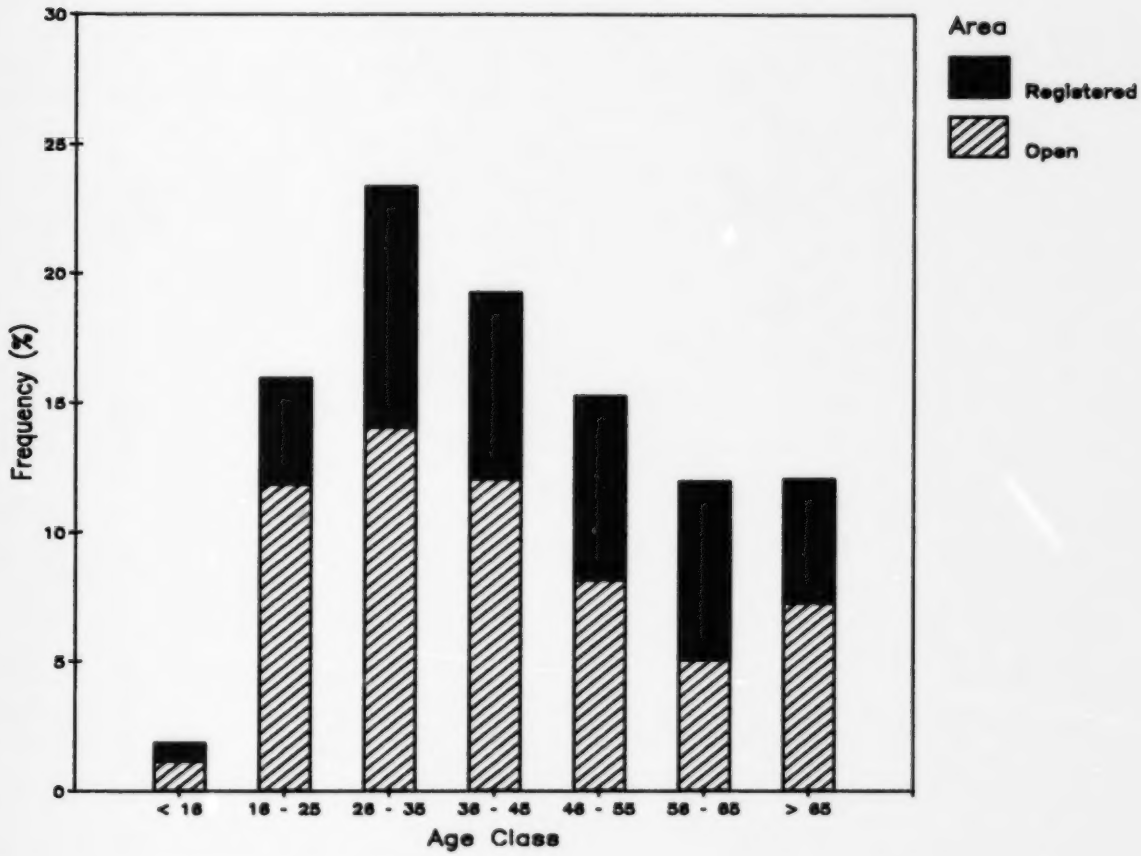


Fig. 3: Age distribution of respondents.

Table 22: Sex distribution of respondents (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | Male % | Female % |
|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 246 | 97.9 ± 1.5 | 2.1 ± 1.5 |
| Eastern | 47 | 93.6 ± 5.9 | 6.4 ± 5.9 |
| Western | 68 | 98.5 ± 2.4 | 1.5 ± 2.4 |
| Open Area | 531 | 97.9 ± 1.0 | 2.1 ± 1.0 |
| Total | 886 | 97.7 ± 0.8 | 2.3 ± 0.8 |

The main occupation of respondents varied from area to area depending on job availabilities (Figure 4 & 5, Appendix IV). Respondents were categorized as those who did and did not consider trapping as their main occupation. In the North the main occupations of those respondents who indicated trapping was not their main occupation were skilled labour and commercial fishing. In the East they were skilled labour, commercial fishing and other, (band councillors, truant officers, truck drivers, self employed, social assistance etc.). In the West the primary occupation was farming followed by commercial fishing. In the OA farming was the main occupation of most followed by skilled labour and other (Figure 4).

For those whose main occupation was trapping, they depended on commercial fishing, manual labour and other to supplement their trapping income in the North (Fig. 5). It was other, commercial fishing and manual labour in the East, commercial fishing, manual labour, farming or old age pension in the West. In the OA it was other, old age pension, farming and skilled labour. In the North 49.6% responded that trapping was their main occupation, 27.5% in the East, 27.6% in the West and 3.5% in the OA. Overall 17.6% of respondents indicated trapping was their main occupation. Almost twelve percent of respondents derived the major portion of their earned income from trapping. This includes 31.3% in the North, 17.6% in the East and West and 1.9% in the OA.

Overall 3.3% of respondents did not have any formal education but in the Northern area, the figure was over 10% (Figure 6, Appendix IV). Few had any post secondary training and the greater number of trappers had completed grade 12 (17.8%). The education level of most trappers fell between grades 8 and 12. This may reflect the availability of high school education where many community schools only went up to grade 8. Individuals may have continued to a higher level if it had been available within the community. In the North most of those who went to school completed grades 7 through 12, in the East 7 through 12, in the West 6 through 10 and in the OA most had some high school training. Few had any post secondary training (Fig. 6).

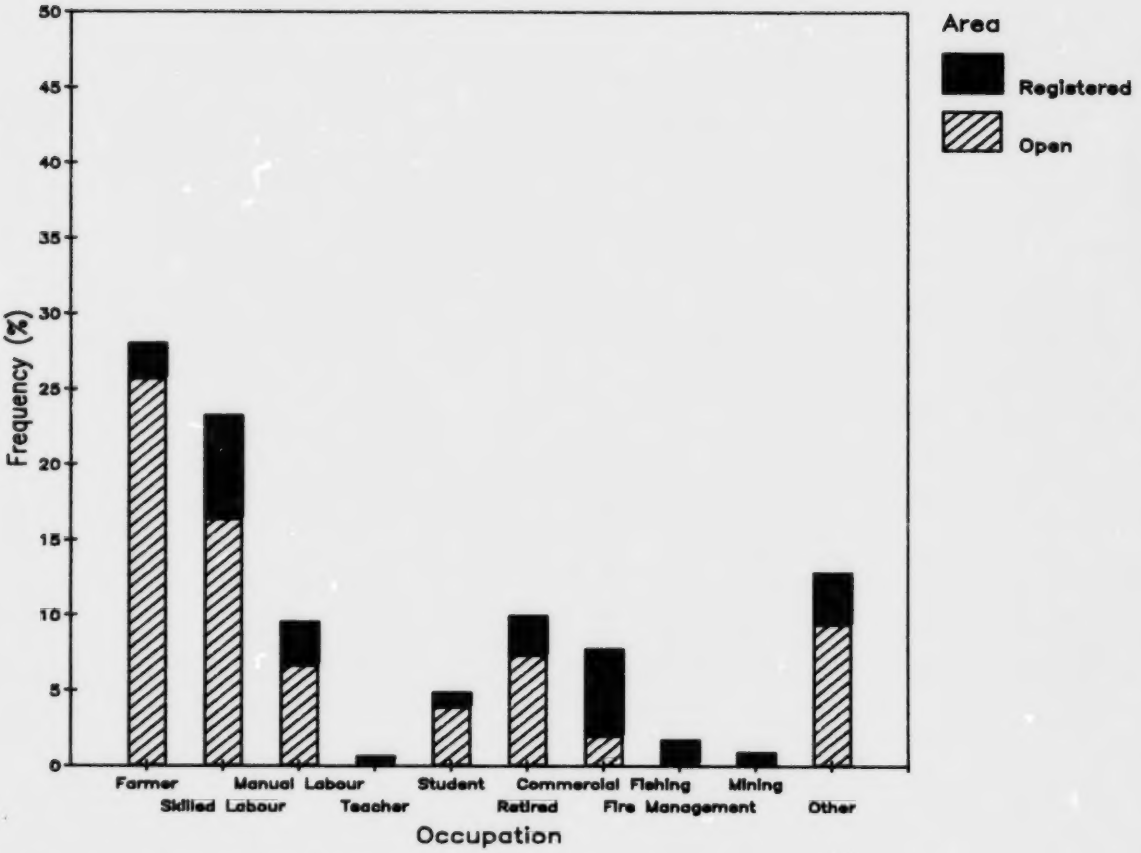


Fig. 4: Main occupations of trappers other than trapping.

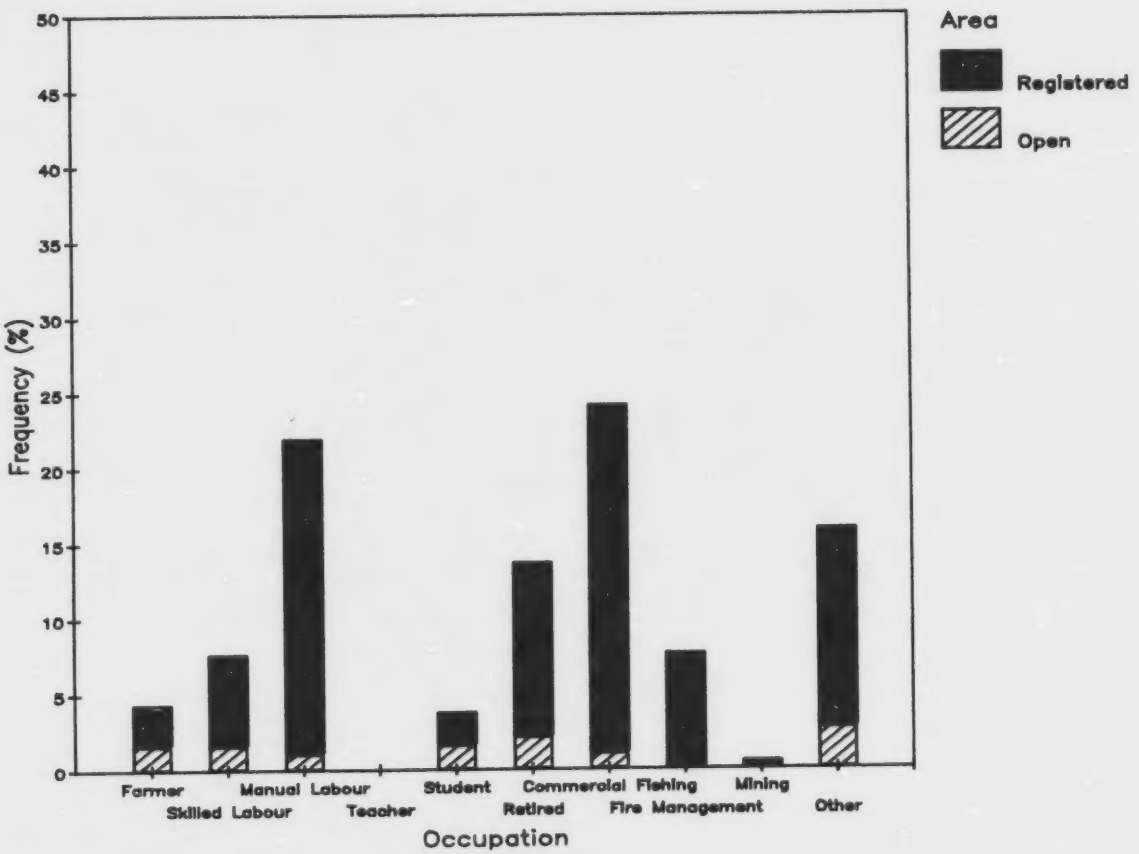


Fig. 5: Other occupations of trappers.

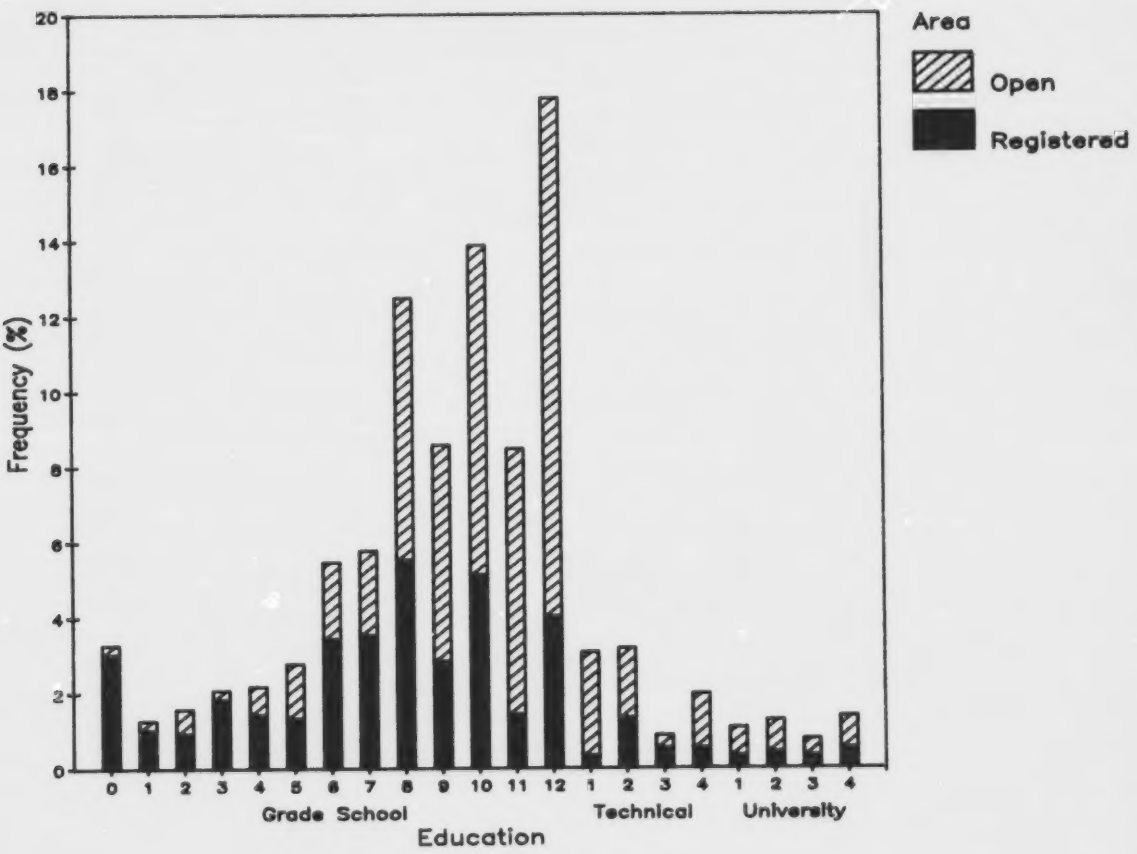


Fig. 6: Education levels attained by respondents.

Comments presented an interesting insight to the immediate concerns of the trappers. Approximately one third of the respondents (385), provided comments (Appendix III). The main topics of comment were those stating they carried trappers licenses only to carry a firearm in case they see a fox or coyote, especially during deer season. There were a number of complaints about low fur prices and/or marketing procedures and indications of the enjoyment received from trapping as a hobby.

Another topic of concern was the disrespect of other resource users in destroying trails and stealing traps or fur from their traplines. Many felt it was important that the anti-harvest groups be educated in the principles of wildlife management and predator/prey cycles. There was some concern over the state of some animal populations, either high or low and the seasons governing a variety of species. There were praises for the Department and its fur programs as well as a feeling that they were a part of the planning process by filling out the questionnaire. The remainder of comments included concern over non-furbearer species, traplines, private land management, snares in the OA, native hunting, etc.

A comparison of results from this questionnaire and results obtained for a survey conducted in 1980 as an extension of the Wild Fur Development Program (WFDP) evaluation by P.M. Associates (1980) was done.

Information for the WFDP report was gathered from personal interviews with trappers at spring fur tables in Thompson and The Pas (51 trappers, 16 RTL sections). These trappers were likely highly motivated, high producing Northern RTL trappers in order to make a trip to the fur tables worthwhile. The present sample was randomly selected, although highly motivated trappers may be the only ones who responded (Northern RTL 252, 22 RTL sections). Average ages compared favourably between the two studies, 45 years vs. 44 years, calculated using the midpoint of the age classes. In 1980 the sampled trappers had an average of 27 years trapping experience versus 22 years in 1987. Interviewed trappers owned 148 traps on average, 30% of which were "humane" (although humane was not defined it was assumed to mean quick killing ie. Conibear traps). The present survey showed an average of 149 traps owned and 31% being "humane" (Conibear, padded leghold and stoploss). Equipment availability and procurement was a major concern in 1980 as it was in 1987.

The results of the two studies differed greatly in the average income from fur sales. P.M. Associates (1980) indicated an average of $6700/trapper for the 1979-80 season; however, calculations from the fur harvest statistics for the same period and same sections resulted in $1580/trapper. Average income in 1987, calculated using the midpoints of income classes was $1347/trapper. The discrepancies may be due to interviews with several highly productive trappers skewing the results. Also the 1979-80 fur year was the highest producing year on record

with higher than average fur income. However, based on average calculations for all trappers, there is little difference in fur income between 1980 and 1987.

There was also a large difference in the amount of time spent trapping. In 1980 18 weeks were spent trapping on average while in 1987 9 weeks (calculated from the mid-points of classes) were spent trapping (with traps actually set). The large amount of time spent in 1980 may be due to interviews with very active trappers as well as no definition of trapping. Eighteen weeks may have been spent on the trapline but it is not known how much of this time traps were set.

DISCUSSION

Over eleven percent of OA respondents did not own traps (Appendix IV) and 15.6% used firearms all the time while another 14.7% used firearms most of the time (Table 10). Many of those who used firearms only, did so only during the deer hunting season in case they saw a furbearer. These individuals cannot be considered trappers in the true sense as they are not contributing to the trapping community as a whole. Perhaps a coyote or fox license should be allowed with the deer license as there is for wolf (Canis lupus). Another alternative might be a small game license for fox, coyote and squirrel (Tamiascuirus hudsonicus) with a requirement for a hunter safety course completion and seasons which complement the trapping season. The vending of these furs will still be recorded by fur dealers as a royalty is payable and can be added to the trapping harvest figures with some modification to the present fur statistics system.

A private land management program may be needed in the future in the OA as 2/3 of the respondents trapped in these areas. There were some comments regarding the management of private lands, permission laws and snare use by landowners. Perhaps a formal program could remedy some of the problems and allow better control over the resource. The pressure on the 1/3 of Crown land in the OA should be investigated further to ensure that the trapping pressure does not outstrip the supply of furbearers, especially in the areas close to major population centres.

The primary language of most trappers in any area should be adopted when relaying information to ensure it is fully understood. This will help to ensure success of many of the present and future projects. English may be used over most of the area but Cree should be included in the Northern RTL area where 44.1% of respondents used Cree as their primary language. It should also be kept in mind that even though 44.1% used Cree only 17.9% were fully functional, i.e., could speak, read and write. French, Ukrainian or other languages did not play a prominent role in the trapping community.

It should also be kept in mind that 10.2% of Northern RTL respondents have had no formal schooling. It will then be necessary for TLOs to make personal contact to relay information in their native tongue.

There is a need for more emphasis on the use of Conibear traps instead of leghold traps in all trapping areas. On average there were approximately 1.8 steel legholds used per Conibear used; this is significantly more than the number of Conibears used. Large numbers of snares were used in the Northern RTL area (36.0% more snares than the number of leghold traps used). Steps should be taken to ensure these are set properly using locks.

There was a dependency of fur income on time spent trapping. The more time spent with their traps set the more money was made. In the North there were 20.2% of respondents who spent less than one week with traps actually set. This goes against the principle of a registered line which is a privilege of exclusive trapping rights granted in order to earn a living. If trappers wish to make money they must spend time at it. Time spent and income gained from trapping were both related to age. The 26-35 year old age group spent the most time and produced the most fur, these values dropped off for younger and older trappers. The RTL trapline allocation system requires revamping to allow recruitment of young trappers and to ensure those who do hold a line are living up to the production and management objectives for the line.

The mainstay of Manitoba's fur industry is the beaver; however, there should be some concern in monitoring fisher populations as many trappers in the boreal RTLs are keying in on this species. In association with the elevated pelt price overharvest could become a threat to some populations of fisher, marten and lynx. OA and Western trappers are keying in on fox and coyote.

Necessity of trapping income was great in the RTL areas where it accounted for at least 25% of the annual income for the respondents. Trapping provided food and material for handicrafts which were eventually sold for income. Northern and Eastern traplines need to

be managed differently from the Western and OA where trapping was only a hobby rather than a way of life. Northern respondents were dependent upon trapping income for their livelihood and way of life (tradition). Many state that trapping was their profession and the major part of their yearly income originates from this source. Furs used in handicrafts provided another source of income along with the sale of other parts of the animals. Furbearer trapping not only brought monetary returns but also provided food as 26.7% ate the meat. Trapping was part of a tradition of the Northern people, both native and non-native.

It was obvious the fur school program had been relatively ineffective in educating trappers up to now as 89.9% of active respondents had not taken the course. The numbers have, however, increased marginally in the past five years. The advent of mandatory trapper education will certainly alleviate this symptom to some extent over time.

Although MRTA has been in existence since 1972 only 21.0% of respondents were members and 16.1% were not even aware of the organization. Some respondents were involved in their local fur council but did not belong to the parent organization. Membership was greater in the RTLs than the OA, probably due to the increased contact with the organization's executive on trapping and other matters.

Trappers seemed to be selling their fur in accordance with the availability of buyers rather than possibly the place where they could get the best deal. Fur tables were important to 14.9% of the Northern RTL respondents.

The concerns of respondents were fur prices and trapping costs and anti-trapping. These are areas that should also be taken into consideration when designing fur management programs and projects.

Commercial fishing played an important part in the lives of respondents in the RTL areas while farming was important to OA respondents. These facts should also be considered when planning.

On the whole trappers had little academic training; therefore, explanations and projects need to be considered for content as well as presentation. In particular, this should be kept in mind when designing trapper education material. Ten percent of Northern RTL respondents had no formal education.

In the OA and Western RTL sections, trapping was a hobby which may or may not have brought significant monetary rewards.

If the scant results from 1980 are compared with those from 1987, it is evident that there are few changes in the demography and trap technology of the Northern RTL trapping community over the past seven years. Use of "humane" traps has not increased nor has fur income.

Overall the RTL areas were relatively homogeneous except for language and some of the species harvested. These areas can continue to be managed under one general plan with a few exceptions in the Western RTLs. The OA should be managed separately.

SUMMARY

Of 3698 trappers surveyed, 1037 responded to a questionnaire designed to gather information on the trapping practises, technology, attitudes and concerns of Manitoba trappers. There were 627 responses from the Open Area and 410 responses from the Registered Trapline Area. The age distribution of respondents compared favourably with the actual age distribution taken from licensing information. It was considered a good sample for comparison. Almost 100% of RTL respondents were active trappers and 88.9% of OA respondents were active. Most respondents lived in rural towns and villages. The primary language of communication was English with 44.1% of Northern respondents using Cree. Most respondents were functional in English.

Respondents owned more traps than they used; approximately one dozen more leghold traps than Conibear traps were used in all areas. OA trappers used fewer traps than RTL trappers but used a firearm more frequently. The amount of time spent trapping was dependent upon age, (the 26-35 year age group spent the most time). Forty-five or more per cent of RTL respondents could be considered full-time trappers while only 27.0% of OA respondents could be considered full-time. The primary furbearing species harvested was beaver followed by coyote, red fox, mink and muskrat.

Most respondents made less than $1000/year from trapping. The amount of money made was dependent upon the amount of time spent trapping. There was a significant difference between the amount made in the OA and the RTLs. Fur income contributed $< 10\%$ of the annual earned

income of most respondents (58.3%). In the Northern RTLs 65.5% of respondents ate the meat of furbearers. Overall, 26.7% of the respondents consumed furbearer meat.

Most respondents trapped as a hobby but many Northern trappers trapped for income. Few respondents had attended a fur school. Only 21.0% of respondents were members of the Manitoba Registered Trappers Association. Most furs were sold on auction. There were concerns for fur prices and marketing procedures, the cost of fuel and equipment and the anti-fur movement.

Most respondents were male and there was a small peak in the age distribution in the 26-35 age class. Other occupations performed by responding trappers were commercial fishing in the North and East and farming in the West and OA. Formal education ranged from none to six years of university. The majority of respondents had completed be grades 8 through 12.

Comments received included:

a) those who declared they had a trappers license only to carry a gun

b) those commenting that trapping was only a hobby

c) those who complained about low fur prices and poor marketing

d) those who complained about lack of respect from other resource users.

Comparing results from the present study and 1980 indicated there has been little change in the demography, fur income and technology used by Manitoba trappers.

It is suggested that hunters be excluded from the trapping fraternity and that private land use for trapping be examined as well as Crown land use in the OA. It is also suggested that the language best understood by the immediate trapping community be used to convey trapping and furbearer management information. There is a need for more emphasis on the use of killing traps instead of holding devices and a method to convey this information to trappers. The RTL system should be examined to ensure there is opportunity for those who wish to actively trap. MRTA is very poorly represented in the trapping community and there appears to be little interest to remedy this. Concerns and other occupations of trappers should be considered when making management plans.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) The RTL trapline allocation and management system should be re-examined to ensure there is opportunity for those who wish to actively trap. The rules must be enforced so that those who hold a line/license are living up to the production and management requirements for that line.

2) An increased effort in trapper education should be attempted so that the Department of Natural Resources can be sure of the abilities, attitudes and responsibilities of the licensed Manitoba trapper particularly to increase the awareness of humane trapping and to increase the use of quick killing traps. The best way may be on a trapper to trapper basis from those who successfully use killing traps.

3) Hunters should be removed from the trapping fraternity. The intent is to make them responsible for their actions through hunter safety programs and other license requirements.

4) An examination of the Open Area Crown lands trapping pressure should be done and an action plan be formulated to deal with this pressure and fluctuations of furbearer populations.

5) An examination should be performed to determine if private lands management will be necessary and if so, a feasibility study for a program that can be administered by the Branch.

6) Support to MPTA should be supplied in proportion to the number of trappers they represent. Re-direct the remainder of support to other organizations that have the concern of trappers and furbearers in hand and are working toward some end in this regard eg. Manitoba Wildlife Federation or directly to qualifying Local Fur Councils, furbearer/trapping research, etc.

7) A questionnaire should be administered every five years to monitor the ongoing changes within the trapping community so that programs and projects can be adjusted to keep in step with these changes.

8) Information to be circulated in the Northern RTLs needs to be printed or announced in Cree and English. TLOs should make a concerted effort to make personal contact with the trappers in their native tongue.

9) The feasibility and initiation of a joint management committee for Crown land and resource use. eg. Forestry, Crown Lands, Parks, Fisheries etc. should be examined. Plans should be made so as to minimize conflicts between Branches and conserve the natural resources, especially on registered lines.

10) Public education on the principles of wildlife ecology, management and harvest should be continued and/or increased, perhaps at a Branch level.

11) An increase in the Open Area license fee to compensate for the hunter loss should be considered. A less expensive rate should be given to junior trappers.

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# APPENDIX I

## SCIENTIFIC AND COMMON NAMES OF FURBEARERS

| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---|---|
| Badger | *Taxidea taxus* |
| Black Bear | *Ursus americanus* |
| Beaver | *Castor canadensis* |
| Covote | *Canis latrans* |
| Ermine | *Mustela erminea* |
| Long-tailed weasel | *Mustela frenata* |
| Fisher | *Martes pennanti* |
| Lynx | *Lynx canadensis* |
| Marten | *Martes americana* |
| Mink | *Mustela vison* |
| Muskrat | *Ondatra zibethicus* |
| Otter | *Lutra canadensis* |
| Raccoon | *Procyon lotor* |
| Red Fox | *Vulpes vulpes* |
| Arctic Fox | *Alopex lagopus* |
| Red Squirrel | *Tamaisciurus hudsonicus* |
| Wolf | *Canis lupus* |
| Wolverine | *Gulo gulo* |

# APPENDIX II

## COMMENTS

| Section | | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| 001 | SOUTHEAST | - trapping is a tradition and it makes for a very challenging career, by allowing you to try your skills against the animals |
| 001 | | - main concern is some individuals using trappers licences to legally carry firearms for purposes other than to shoot furbearing animals |
| 001 | | - has a trappers license mainly to be able to shoot coyote or fox etc. So far he's not shot anything. The answers to some of the questions are answered as to what he would do if he had gotten any |
| 001 | | - was just out for a few days with a friend see how he'd like it, but have no time right now |
| 001 | | - goes varmint hunting maybe a half dozen times through the season for red fox |
| 001 | | - hasn't done any trapping for 10 years, at that time he got a few squirrels, but weren't worth much. Last season worked in the woods all winter and only saw one squirrel, but didn't trap it |
| 001 | | - would like to join a Department fur school and a price list |
| 001 | | - snares are outlawed in this area. He believes they are the most humans way of taking wild game. There should be some way to permit a trapper to use these to take fox, coyote and wolves. Only the honest trappers should be allowed this and not the hobby trappers who would leave them out all summer |
| 001 | | - only gets a license so he can hunt foxes if he sees them while rabbit hunting |

001 - attitudes of people towards animals has changed. Now people would rather have animals on their land and on government reserves, rather than harvest this valuable resource.
- educating the public in respect to the importance of trapping (ie. income, and predator control) both to themselves and others would be a good idea.

001 - has a 160 acre camp which he takes good care of, planting trees and digging dug-outs for wildlife. Only access is by an A.T.V. which he is not allowed to use for a week because of deer hunting season
- never uses A.T.V. for hunting but would like a special permit so he can reach camp

001 - has a license so that he can carry a gun in case he runs into a wolf when he is working as a lumber jack

001 - has been trapping since 8 years old
- traps in winter to see if he can out smart the animals, and get them mounted for their cabin

001 - people stealing

001 - enjoys trapping and hopes it will be allowed to continue

001 - the Steinbach area needs more trapper educational programs for young trappers
- feels $2.00 fee for license is low considering the price of furs. A $10.00 fee would be better, and would provide more funds for education, training and literature

001 - trapping is just a hobby

001 - traps only for a hobby in November. The expenses exceed his income for trapping.
- concerned about peoples ignorance, which leads them to believe that the wildlife borders on extinction, yet the same people take up residence in every last remaining bluff of trees and chase out the wildlife.

001 - purchased license for protection when walking to cruise timber.
- there are too many trappers in this area

001 - enjoys trapping season

001 - concerned about theft on the trapline

001 - concerned about the loss of habitat

001 - buys licence but doesn't get much chance to use it

001 - municipality should hire a trapper to take care of beaver problem and make use of the fur instead of wasting them by breaking dams in winter etc.

001 - lures should be easier to purchase

001 - would like to see a new design for a killer trap besides and conibear that would take any wild animal without suffering.

001 - hunts rabbit in winter for food.
- has a license in the event that he comes across a fur bearing animal. He does not go looking for them.
- "The license is freedom of hunting without breach of law"

001 - the benefits of trapping should exceed the effort put into it.
- fur thieves hurt income and effort, and the law does NOTHING.
- Most localities (Rennie, Piney, Hadashville, Whitemouth, East Braintree, etc.) have certain individuals that travel a circuit and steal once they know they are making sets. This makes trapping in these areas impossible.
- In North Dakota, snaring of coyotes and foxes is allowed. The snares must be marked as to address, individual and location. The trapper must have them mapped out so the C.O. may check them. A system similar to this should be implemented in Manitoba.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 001 | | - only traps to control the raccoons and fox destroying chickens. Also sets snares to teach his sons how. |
| 001 | | - took a trip to area 14 and was amazed by the amount of land being cleared for pasture. Also noticed land being set aside for wildlife but nothing in comparison to the former. Would like to see government make a law or some sort of incentive to set some land aside for wildlife and the future operations. |
| | | - doesn't like to see natives hunting on Sunday or whenever they feel like it. If they are concerned about their children's future and everybody else's they should take a moment and think about what they are doing. |
| 001 | | - Too many unsupervised young trappers, Walk behind and shut our traps. |
| 001 | | - enjoys trapping as a hobby and the extra income<br>- soon it will be impossible for people who make a living trapping to continue to do so because of the anti trapping movement, cost of fuel, equipment, low fur prices and less demand for furs<br>- short dissertation on wildlife management |
| 001 | | - bought a licence but doesn't trap just has it in case he sees an animal he can shoot |
| 001 | | - stop the Indians from nightlighting |
| 001 | | - why is it that only registered trap lines can use snares?<br>- upset that he cuts a trail and everyone uses it for their traps. |
| 001 | | - questionnaire a good idea, will help |
| 002 | METLEY | - enjoys camping, hunting and trapping and does it to pass time. In this area a living could not be made off of it. |
| 002 | | - never made much trapping |

002 - in favor of a fall season, as spring is when breeding occurs

002 - traps as a hobby
- good idea to have open season on trapping in this area as it gives all the trappers a chance to trap.

002 - there should be more control over what a buyer can pay for fur. Some buyers will give someone a good price for their fur and then turn around and give someone else next to nothing, especially if he knows that you have no choice but to sell to him

002 - I am encouraged by and fully support The Fur Institute, and hope that it has some positive effect for trappers as a whole.

002 - why does the fur go down in the spring?
- trap line is too small, and there are too many trappers in one area.

002 - improvements on the enforcement of laws regarding interference of traplines from hunters or skiers.
- traps must be taken out during the deer or moose seasons which cuts out much of the fox or coyote season.

002 - if the anti-trapping movement is successful the trappers will need the support of the taxpayers, and what will happen to the predator-prey cycle if trapping stops and suddenly skews the ratio.

002 - mostly hunts for rabbits

002 - unable to get a trapline.

002 - concerned with ongoing and potential habitat loss and agree with promotion of more humane methods of trapping.

002,006 - lack of fish, muskrat and water.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 004 | DALLAS | - fur prices should be higher, prices have dropped considerably in the last few years. This discourages people to trap as the expenses are higher than the income<br>- if prices aren't better this year, he won't trap |
| 004 | | - need better price for fur |
| 004 | | - cross country skiers and snowmobilers take advantage of traplines for trails and set off traps. They have token catches, and traps. They have also indiscriminately shot and left fur bearers to be ruined. |
| 004 | | - father takes him trapping and shows him different tracks and how to set traps |
| 004 | | - too many traps left unattended<br>- enjoys outdoors and traps to educate children about animals |
| 004 | | - lack of furbearing animals |
| 004 | | - loves the outdoors and wildlife. |
| 004 | | - enjoyed the questionnaire |
| 004 | | - what is the chance of getting an ARDA grant |
| 005 | MORDEN | - has a license so he can shoot predators |
| 005 | | - fox and coyote season should be Oct. 15 to Jan. 15. This would give the trapper a better chance to use traps before freeze-up. The earlier fur is much better than the late fur |
| 005 | | - keep up the education process |
| 005 | | - has a license, so he can shoot coyote that harm his livestock.<br>- feels that this helps keep rabies and distemper down as well. |

005 - interested to see that ordinary trappers view is being sought, rather than just those that trap full-scale
- hopes that their points of view will be listened to and thought over, as there is a need for improvement before the anti-trapping and hunting groups completely ruin a way of life and management that they really don't understand

005 - would like to see better enforcement for those who hunt animals with skidoos, as it is very inhumane

005 - farmer feels we shouldn't need permission to hunt or trap on unposted land

005 - have not trapped for some time get a license to hunt fox and coyote in deer season

005 - has a trapping license to legally hunt wolves and fox during deer hunting season and to set a couple of traps at a local farmer for predators.

005 - season not long enough for fox and coyote. Too many farmers cannot raise fowl for their use due to this short season, upland game are suffering also

005 - 63 years old, sold less than $1000 of fur in his lifetime, never operated a registered line, and has never owned more than $100 worth of traps. Got a license to legalize outdoor activity

005 - close the season for animals with low or no dollar value. example: badger
- early beaver season, before Oct. 15
- use of snares legal for general trapper
- the no trespassing law abolished

005 - has trouble getting export permits, restricted drivers license.

005 - would like to see better fur prices.

005 - anti-trapping movement should be stopped

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 005 | | - has land for sale for wildlife if the Department is interested |
| 006 | DELTA | - would like to see more information dealing with what is being done to help trappers sent to all trappers without them having to request it.<br>- would like to hear straight from the Wildlife Branch because the MRTA is not doing it. |
| 006 | | - don't do much trapping because he doesn't have time but likes hunting and watching animals. |
| 006 | | - trapping licenses could be raised a little higher<br>- Something should be done about the skunk problem, maybe a small bounty on them (last season he caught about 90) |
| 006 | | - season on badger, ermine should be closed as they are very scarce, especially the long-tailed weasel<br>- there are alot of badgers being killed on the roads |
| 006 | | - unable to get a job in field he was trained for (refrigeration and air conditioning) |
| 006 | | - trapping season should be shortened to give the animals a better chance, otherwise numbers will decline<br>- the only reason nothing is being done is because money is being made on the sale of licenses and bullets.<br>- animals are decreasing, fur prices have gone down, something must be done or tradition of trapping will disappear<br>- feels hunting/trapping with snowmobiles is stupid. Has heard where people run down animals for the "FUN" of it, and that stricter laws should be made and better enforcement of these laws<br>- there should be a Game Warden in this area |
| 006 | | - buys a license in case he gets a chance to get a fox or raccoon to get mounted |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 006 | | - people are not properly informed about fur harvesting<br>- traps as a hobby in the winter, as he enjoys the outdoors and learning how animals live |
| 006 | | - traps as a hobby<br>- there used to be alot more furs in this area |
| 006 | | - increase the price of trapping licenses to around $10 to $20 so that not just anyone will get one.<br>- would like to see something done about the skunk ponulation, possibly a small bounty?<br>- pleased to see that Natural Resources are concerned, and feel free to ask more questions. |
| 006 | | - concerned about the trap thieves |
| 006 | | - close fox and covote season in Delta area for 2 years, allow population to increase<br>- there should be more wardens in Delta |
| 006 | | - poor market |
| 006 | | - fuel has gotten too expensive |
| 007 | ALONSA | - should cut back on welfare and job creation, as there is a living to be made for people who know nothing but the outdoors |
| 007 | | - living on the farm he has seen many hard times with no help from the Government. There were times when fur was not worth killing not even for bounty on wolves. Shall always kill wolves on sight because it will never pay for all the sheep and lambs and goats they have killed in his lifetime. |
| 007 | | - as a landowner it is his right to harvest wildlife as he harvests any other crop from his land.<br>- pleased to see the license fees go up and suggests they be further increased and automatically include a membership to MRTA and that MRTA change their membership year to start September 1 to coincide with the trapping season. |

008 BOISSEVAIN - Thinks questionnaire is a great idea and wishes we would send more books and magazines on trapping.

008 - finds the questions on the questionnaire to be interesting.
- hopes to spend more time outdoors and to get out on the trapline again.

008 - only buys a trapper's licenses is to trap predators like badger in the alfalfa field.

008 - low water levels have almost depleted trapping for the last 5 years.

008 - concerned about Hutterites using poison and gas to kill fox and coyotes, then going on snowmobiles to pick them up. Would like to see them checked for this.

008 - would do more trapping if the price of furs were better. May as well let the animals live rather than make someone else rich.

008 - fuel prices are making trapping too expensive.

008 - put a moratorium on red fox for 2 years before they become extinct
- gopher population is up because red fox population is down
- make available whistles to mount on cars, so there aren't as many close calls hitting deer on the road at night
- keep up the good work

008 - The Manitoba fur trapping book is excellent and informative book

008 - Finds trapping to be an enjoyable hobby and feels that the anti-trapping movement presents serious threat not only to the hobbyists and small trapper but more seriously to the people who derive their income from trapping. Puts this threat as No. 1 on the list of priorities.

008 - Thinks the season on wolves and coyotes is too short and the price of these furs is too low. Thinks there should be a bounty on wolves and coyotes to thin them out a little because they are chasing away the rabbits, foxes, deer, moose etc. They are running in packs of 10 to 15 and killing alot of deer.

008 - Don't trap anymore

008 - buy trappers licenses in case I see something during deer season.

008 - does alot of custom stretching and cleaning for other trappers
- has attended many fur schools, and has been a member of M.R.T.A. since '72
- is the Secretary of the Boissevain local fur council

008 - without trapping, there would be too many animals with diseases, and they would starve and hurt other animals.

008 - has been trapping with father since 10 years old
- finds that Conibear trap is much more humane, but not practical for fox and coyote
- Uncle (David Korosil, 40 Elm St., New Rothwell, Manitoba) makes a trap which has great success with fox and coyote

008 - no longer trapping, has gone back to school

008 - respects the landowners point of view, but does not totally agree with the new permission law. There should be some system such as posting of land in order that the trappers know who the landowner is and how to contact them. In many cases it may take considerable time to contact the owner, and it is not feasible for the trapper to take this time when hunting/trapping coyote. This type of situation tempts the trapper to break the law.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 008 | | - concerned about trap thieves |
| 008 | | - too many snares being used |
| 008 | | - helped husband trap when he was alive. He was checking his traps when he got shot accidentally.<br>- didn't make very much on their furs. |
| 008 | | - has a license so that he can shoot coyotes during deer season |
| 008 | | - outlaw electronic fox calls, would like special permit to carry a pistol for shooting foxes |
| 009 | ERICKSON | - concerned about furs and traps being stolen off the line, especially in the big game season. |
| 009 | | - the farming sector should have full control of wildlife as they are the owners of their breeding grounds, shelters and also food supply. Also each farmer should control wildlife as he and she sees fit. No one person will destroy life of the wild animals except if Resources gets their nose in everything. |
| 009 | | - trappers license was bought but certain circumstances prevented him from trapping. |
| 009 | | - hopes the answers from the questionnaire helps the younger trappers from 12-16 who have a hard time travelling to trapping spots. Nearby ponds and lakes should be left to the town children instead of the fellow that drives around anyway. He trapped first by walking to his traps, not by skidoo and it was great. |
| 009 | | - pleased that government is taking a bigger interest in trapping, and hopes this will help fight the anti-trapping movement.<br>- trapping helps control rabies and other diseases as well as over population.<br>- would like to see hunting with hounds for raccoons, fox, squirrel, and coyote as they have in Ontario. A lot of money would be made off it for the government. |

009 - low price for furs, and down grading of furs makes trapping non-feasible, and causes unenthusiasm.

009 - traps as an extra source of income, which is badly needed, as he farms.

009 - has developed a trap which he would like to patent, but cannot afford it, so it will probably never get on the market.
- he would like to see some kind of help or grant to develop better traps.

009 - would like to see the weasel price be so low that no one would go tranping for them. The reason is weasel are good mice killers.

009 - had to quit school many years ago to help parents at home

009 - hasn't trapped in last 30 years.

009 - gets a wildlife license in order to carry a gun.

009,012 - concerned about wildlife destruction in Agro, particularly the road allowances which are being used for agriculture.
- concerned about anti-fur movement.

009,012 - costs of trapping are too high, and fur prices are too low.
- the fur buyers are too fussy, and are ripping off trappers.

010 DAUPHIN - would like to see more papers on how to become a better tranper and a better way of being able to get more money for fur.

010 - last time he trapped was in 1975 when he was on the farm, retired now and lives in town. Bought a trappers license in case he shot a coyote or fox.

010 - should be more patrols to catch people who use skidoos to chase and capture furbearing animals.

010 - did some trapping long ago, but does not trap anymore, always buys a license maybe to trap again someday.

010 - sorry for the late return, buys a trappers license every year in case he has a chance to shoot a fox or coyote.
- good luck with our research.

010 - family not interested in trapping for a living, just for past-time.

010 - farmers don't want natives trapping on their land.

010 - doesn't feel RTLs are passed out fairly some lines are not properly trapped but still get passed on to relatives even if they have no experience.

010 - seasons are not enforced strictly enough many fox and coyote killed on snowmobile long after the season is over.

010 - should stop fall muskrat season
- would like to see all of Red Deer Point in Dauphin fur block instead of Camper-Duck area. They only road is from Winnipegosis.

010 - due to excessive brush clearing furbearers have taken refuge in the park where only registered trappers can trap them.
- poor fur prices has caused an overpopulation of beaver.
- doesn't believe in shooting or trapping every animal he sees, like to conserve for his kids.
- noticed a decrease in squirrel, muskrat and rabbits in the past couple of years.

010 - why don't we get grants anymore?

010 - in southern Duck Mountains trappers are not properly established on some lines, others are not trapping their lines at all and some older trappers cannot handle their lines. Requires a new study and re-alignment.

010 - should bring back government grants, so trappers who want to make their living at trapping can keep their equipment up to date. The natives should not be the only ones to have new equipment whenever they want.

010 - beaver problems.

010 - beaver should not be open on Oct. 15 because it is too warm.
- 'rat season should be closed in the fall because it spoils the spring prices.
- shouldn't allow 65 years and over to trap because they have a pension and don't need the money, should let the younger trappers trap.

010 - hopes trapping continues in Manitoba.
- wishes prices of fur and traps were more reasonable.

010 - enjoys trapping and hoping to get on as a helper on a Thompson are RTL.
- against the anti-trapping movement.
- thinks questionnaire is good idea.

010 - forestry opened the Red Deer Block for anyone, so there was nothing to trap.
- people stole my traps, ski-doos and guns so I gave up trapping.
- all this was done without his knowledge.

010 - RTL trappers are looking after their lines.
- beaver are too plentiful.
- impossible for an outsider to get an RTL.

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| 010 | | - does all trapping on private land.<br>- license fees should not go up, the trappers that suggested the raise may be OK but this is a part time hobby with most.<br>- If the increase comes about he will not allow anyone on his property. |
| 010 | | - price of fur is low and equipment is high. |
| 011 | VIRDEN | - would like to trap more but the price is so low it's not worth it. |
| 011 | | - only traps on hunting expeditions as a hobby. |
| 011 | | - thinks price of license is very reasonable and that is why he buys one and to be able to sell furs gotten during deer season. |
| 011 | | - should be able to use snares on private land.<br>- wishes MTA would be more enthused about doing work in the communities, feels that they could try to unite the trappers more because trappers have to stay together. |
| 011 | | - only hunts as a hobby. |
| 011 | | - buys a license to legally shoot furbearers during big game seasons. |
| 011 | | - has a license so he can carry a rifle. |
| 011 | | - fur prices too low.<br>- season should be closed for one year on rare species. |
| 011 | | - only reason he has a license is to shoot furbearers during deer season. |
| 012 | ROSSBURN | - feels trapping regulations should stay the same.<br>- farmers and builders should start saving some bush.<br>- go trapping to get out and enjoy nature. |

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| 012 | | - feels that a person owning land should be able to set snares, feels it is a humane method. |
| 012 | | - has trappers license in case he feels like trapping when not working. |
| 013 | THE PAS | - a stronger fur council should be set up for The Pas to help all trappers in the surrounding area, mostly for spring trapping season. It would be a great help to the trappers and the Wildlife Branch. |
| 013 | | - fur prices too low and cost of equipment and fuel too high. |
| 020 | EAST INTERLAKE | - season on red squirrels should be closed for two. vears. |
| 020 | | - carries a trappers license during regular deer, elk and moose seasons. Does not trap or hunt for a living, any animals taken are used by himself for rugs etc. |
| 020 | | - good survey, anything to stop anti-trapping movement. |
| 020 | | - would do more trapping if prices were higher and costs were lower. |
| 020 | | - should set up trapping seminars to educate trappers on the use of new equipment and techniques and fur handling and marketing. |
| 020 | | - coyotes are plentiful but muskrats are scarce. |
| 020 | | - trapping is not his main source of income but still wants to see it continue.<br>- close fall muskrat season, brings down the prices too much. |
| 020 | | - trap theft is a problem, bought 250 traps 200 have been stolen. |

| | | |
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| 020 | | - stop fall muskrat season<br>- should be able to trap in Hecla Wildlife Refuge for mink and muskrat. |
| 020 | | - has license to carry rifle in case he sees anything.<br>- concerned with overtrapping of lynx, muskrat and timber wolves. |
| 020 | | - trapping is a means of resource harvesting and management and is acceptable when properly regulated.<br>- feels trapping is hard on the furbearer populations in more populated areas.<br>- revenue and recreation gained is not significant enough to warrant the pressure put on certain species.<br>- maybe trapping should be more regulated towards registered areas, management among trappers. |
| 022 | WEST INTERLAKE | - concerned about water management. |
| 022 | | - buys licenses to be able to carry a gun. |
| 022 | | - buys licenses to legally kill predators. |
| 050 | WINNIPEG UNKNOWN | - buys a license but hasn't used it for over 20 years. |
| 050 | | - not a trapper but a hunter. |
| 050 | | - hunting and trapping furbearers should be a separate license. A hunter can trap but a trapper can't hunt. |
| 050 | | - licenses should be $50 to $100 for a genuine trapper, only used to carry rifle now. |
| 050 | | - quit trapping because there are too many anti-trapping people, and too many farmers posting their land. People also steal traps or snapping them. |

050 - doesn't matter how the questions are answered as the government doesn't listen to anyone when they hand out grants. Everyone is a trapper when its cold and fur prices are down. Every hunter is a trapper now and you can't leave any traps or equipment unattended or they disappear, you make a trail in the bush and everyone uses it!

050 - there should be better predator control to save wild game and livestock.
- has a license so that he can carry a firearm for predator control.
- fur bearing animals are very scarce in this area.

050 - does not sell furs, keeping them for rugs.

050 - has a license to shoot coyotes that come onto the farm.

050 - did not trap or shoot anything.

050 - has a license so that he can carry a gun in his vehicle in case he sees a predator.

050 - does not trap.

050 - does not trap for sport or money, has a license for shooting coyote, fox and wolf.

050 - trapping is a hobby, and provides fresh air, exercise and extra income in the winter.

060 WHITESHELL- trapping provides a chance to get back to nature.

060 - need better control of water for furbearers throughout the area.

060 - public education is a continual process to make people aware of the benefits of controlled, monitored trapping.

| | | |
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| 060 | | - would like to see some restrictions on beaver taken off the better lines some have better habitat conditions but some don't have feed and don't produce many. |
| 060 | | - RTLs should be expanded into Open Area to preserve animal populations, especially fisher and lynx.<br>- continue trapping in Prov. parks. |
| 070 | LAC DU BONNET | - do away with travelling buyers help communities have more fur councils within the communities, help them run their own fur schools and have an appointed person to take the communities fur to auction. |
| 070 | | - feels there are too many Indians who travel the roads just to shoot animals even if they are on an RTL.<br>- feels that Anti-trapping movement is made up of people who don't have any idea what they are talking about. |
| 080 | HOLE RIVER | - hard to make a living trapping today.<br>- fur buyers have the trapper over a barrel. |
| 080 | | - would like to see a month taken off the spring beaver season, in Hole River area.<br>- population is low and it would allow the ones who made it through the winter to live and care for their kits, May 15 is a bit late. |
| 080 | | - would like to see the lynx quota system changed in the future. |
| 080 | | - trapping is my native way of life. |
| 100 | BLOODVEIN | - concerned about fur marketing, trapper has no protection.<br>- would like to see a fur marketing board established. |
| 100 | | - still interested in trapping and working outdoors and whatever. Doesn't have many traps and would like to have alot but didn't know where to buy them. Maybe we could give some advice as to where she could buy a few. |

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| 100 | | - does not expect to see any wildlife in the next 20 years because of the way the human is living. |
| 100 | | - recommends a longer season, ending Feb. 28 on all species in remote areas, NE of Bissett, far north and east of Thompson because these RTLs are hard to get to. Agrees November is the best month for most furbearers but because it takes a long time for freeze up much of that month is lost for trapping. Trappers in the west and Southeast have the advantage of logging roads therefore they don't have to depend on freeze-up as the East side trappers do. Believes we should go back to longer seasons so that he can catch more. If there is a concern of overharvest of some species because of this then quotas should be put on.<br>- fisher, marten, mink, ermine and otter should have the same seasons as it is possible to catch all in the same sets (except maybe otter) but if they are all shortened to the fisher season then we might as well not trap at all. So keep the seasons longer and put quotas on things like fisher.<br>- beaver and muskrat seasons are good, they are mostly undertrapped.<br>- earlier fox season is good. |
| 100 | | - humans are destroying the game, concerned about the decline in all animal species in the area. |
| 110 | LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS | - hard to make anything at trapping with such short seasons.<br>- need an alternate selling depot, feels they are not getting a fair deal now. |
| 110 | | - went to school to grade 7 then started trapping. |
| 110 | | - need better marketing procedures.<br>- seasons too short for winter fur. |
| 130 | BERENS RIVER | - local president of the trapper's association in Berens River is not doing his job very well. He is unfair to some of the trappers. How often do elections come up? |

| | | |
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| 130 | | - needs transportation to the trapline namely a ski-doo! There is a lack of equipment, traps etc. |
| 140 | POPLAR RIVER | - don't have enough money to buy traps or other things because of the low cost of fur. Just use welfare for things needed and never gets a grub stake. |
| 150 | NORWAY HOUSE | - hates Greenpeace, come on traplines and bother trappers, they should be shot. Enact a law to prohibit them coming on the trapline. |
| 150 | | - commercial fishermen come on the trapline and build cabins without permission.<br>- also a Hydro employee came onto the trapline and set up a fish farm without permission.<br>- problems with moose hunters driving around on skidoos scaring off animals. |
| 150 | | - complains about garbage left behind by anglers and hunters. |
| 150 | | - complains about fur buyers paying different amounts from area to area.<br>- too many wolves. |
| 150 | | - get rid of Greenpeace. |
| 150 | | - stop anti-trapping don't let them go on the trapline. |
| 150 | | - two years ago dead muskrats were found in their houses.<br>- last year there were hardly any rats.<br>- does this have to do with Hydro ice is always falling. |
| 160 | ISLAND LAKE | - pat on the back for the good job we do. |
| 160 | | - concerned with littering on his trapline due to the winter road, also oil slicks. |
| 160 | | - can't make a living off fishing and trapping any more, costs high, return low. |

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| 160 | | - for being a trapper as we think about our tools and fur 1. tools are costing more, 2. fur is getting less every year. |
| 160 | | - trapping is a native right and it was the whiteman who plundered the land. |
| 200 | TURTLE MOUNTAIN | - should give more grants for trappers in southwestern Manitoba.<br>- concerned about cross-country skiers on his trapline. |
| 210 | DUCK MOUNTAIN | - timber cutters clear away good animal habitat and block the tracks and mess up the trails with machines and in some cases wreck the traps.<br>- questionnaire good idea, increases communication between trapper and the department. |
| 210 | | - 'rats and beaver should be in season by the first of October and cut off by the end of April as the fur is prime and in good quality. Bear season should be left open late. |
| 210 | | - concerned over bear hunting; there is big money in bears. Several months ago some fellows high school age spotted a sow and three cubs. They shot all of them and wondered where to sell the galls, they could not find a buyer locally, the bears were wasted.<br>- Has trapped his line for three generations and has built a network of trails. The bear baiters have come in and are beginning to use the trails as they can legally, however, with a potential to ruin them. Last spring one fellow in a 4 x 4 with a dead steer started up the trail and got stuck, he got a tractor and pulled the truck out. It was spring and the tractor made a mess of the trail. It wouldn't be bad if the guides would build their own trails but the possibility of wrecked ski-doo trails is bad.<br>- Also the pressure on the bears is high. Knew of five bears in his immediate area and all five were shot in the fall (including the sow and cubs). |
| 210 | | - concerned over Indian people killing moose and deer, is an Indian himself and sees lots of it, no control. |

| | | |
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| 210 | | - forests in Duck Mountain are becoming a barren land as far as trapping is concerned. Where there is pulp and logging (clear cut) the fur animals are disappearing, there is nothing left for shelter and food. Has large areas like this on this trapline. #1. |
| 210 | | - what do we want to know all this information for? |
| 210 | | - one item of concern, trapping is classed as hunting. This is not true and should be in a category of its own.<br>- concerned over the pressures of poaching and equipment theft on the RTL.<br>- concerned over the general outlook for the trapper with anti-trapping legislation etc. |
| 220 | PORCUPINE MOUNTAIN | - concerned about: trail cutting, trees falling because of storm, vandalism to camp and theft. |
| 220 | | - made a living out of trapping til 1958 every winter. Started trapping when he was 13 and preferred the killer traps. |
| 220 | | - beaver season is open way too late in the spring and too early in the fall.<br>- the overseeing of timber operations by Natural Resources leaves much to be desired. |
| 240 | WATERHEN | - need bigger block. |
| 240 | | - need bigger trapping block. |
| 250 | SKOWNAN | - is careful when using snares, always picks them up, and never uses them when there may be danger to livestock. |
| 250 | | - need money to buy equipment, others getting grants who do not trap. |
| 260 | CAMPER DUCK | - need better water management. |

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| 260 | | - found questionnaire very interesting may help in future. Hope every trapper got one. |
| 260 | | - trappers hunt wolf, beaver and other bigger species, have a firearm all the time, in case they get lost and for _____ of seasons. Anything could happen out there. A man has to have a firearm at all times for trapping. |
| 260 | | - Natural Resources should have fur schools. |
| 260 | | - we have a Fur Council but licenses have gone up to $10.00 and we cannot put extra charges on licenses to keep our Camper-Duck Association going. |
| 260 | | - concerned about water level. |
| 260 | | - hard to get front money for a ski-doo to travel to your trapline also gas is expensive to go back and forth. |
| 260 | | - can't make any money because I don't have any traps and skidoo is always broken spends more money on parts than to make any money to support his family. They give traps and skidoos to the wrong guys. |
| 260 | | - glad he is still able to trap (77 years old). |
| 260 | | - thinks the season for lynx should be closed completely, muskrat prices are way too low and takes a gun when checking traps but never has to use it. |
| 270 | GYPSUMVILLE | - never applied for ARDA, fuel is scarce. |
| 280 | RED DEER- | - fur seasons must be stabilized. |
| | SHOAL RIVER | - anti-trapping movement must be stopped. |
| 280 | | - clearing of bush and draining of non-productive land for farming is a very senseless thing that has been going on for the last 20 years. |
| 280 | | - would like some information on fur prices. |

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| 280 | | - has never had a permit for his trappers camp, and now the Lands Branch in Dauphin is trying to make him move out. |
| 280 | | - fur prices too low, costs too high. |
| 280 | | - keep the resource for local trappers. |
| 280 | | - need travelling fur buyer, cost of going to auction or local buyer too high. |
| 300 | EASTERVILLE | - against the Green Peace Movement. |
| 300 | | - unfulfilled compensation promises, debris in flooded area makes fishing hard. |
| 310 | GRAND RAPIDS | - Dept. of Natural Resources should give more trapper education programs. Alot of fur is sold for less than it should be, because of improper care in skinning and stretching by the trappers. |
| 320 | THE PAS | - would like to develop the trapline for more than furbearers, if supported by Hydro, DU and province would like to get into elk, fish or furbearer farming.<br>- Ducks Unlimited and Hydro wrecking most productive trapline in area since '59 .<br>- feels that due to lack of water, they have lost about $200,000 and would like to operate own water levels<br>- would like to be compensated with equipment: bombadiers, boat and motor, and ski-doos. |
| 320 | | - need a skidoo. |
| 330 | MOOSE LAKE | - more emphasis needs to be placed on optimum yield, includes habitat improvement and trapper education on wildlife management and business management. |
| 340 | CRANBERRY PORTAGE | - generally satisfied but thinks trappers should be able to regulate water for muskrats and set nets for bait and personal use. |
| 340 | | - questions the rationale behind choosing trappers with and without steady jobs. |

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| 340 | | - would like to plant wild rice on trapline in Grass River Prov. Park but can't get permission because of Master Plan; would like it changed. |
| 340 | | - would like to see a 2 or 3 lynx quota per trapline in the area, with extras coming off next year's quota. |
| 340 | | - gets a trappers license to keep cabin, only place to live, gets helped to trap. |
| 350 | COROMORANT | - more trappers need radios. |
| 350 | | - enjoys trapping as a hobby, concerned about overtrapping, long fur species should be opened sooner in the north. |
| 360 | CROSS LAKE | - need more subsidies from Hydro. |
| 360 | | - hydro regulation made trapping very difficult last year. |
| 360 | | - fur bearing animals were very scarce in the 85-86 trapping year. No lynx tracks were spotted at all. |
| 360 | | - have a problem with water levels, poor ice conditions, furbearers dying due to water rising during the season.<br>- fur prices too low, equipment too high need assistance to improve trapping. |
| 360 | | - Natural Resources should get after Hydro because they spoiled trapping. |
| 360 | | - trapping area is very small and is affected by water fluctuations every other year. Trapping is very unpredictable and will remain a problem as long as the Jenpeg control structure stays in operation. |
| 360 | | - lost much income due to Hydro flooding. |
| 370 | OXFORD HOUSE | - if the fur prices at the local Bay do not get better, then will sell to someone outside.<br>- the type of traps made recently damage the furs. |

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| 370 | | - likes trapping and will continue to do so. |
| 370 | | - concerned about hunters and fishermen taking game and fur from his trapline. |
| 380 | GOD'S LAKE | - not enough assistance from ARDA. |
| 400 | FLIN FLON | - R.T.L. trappers should be allowed one subsistence moose. A license must be purchased, but can be taken anytime during trapping season.<br>- Wildlife Branch should teach Humane Trapping.<br>- should be allowed to use trapline cabins and equipment for fishermen and taking tourists on winter trapping trips. |
| 410 | SHERRIDON | - non-resident moose licenses are getting harder to get therefore trapping is becoming the major portion of income. |
| 420 | SNOW LAKE | - fur farming will eventually affect fur prices. If fur can be produced in large numbers of uniform quality, the prices will lower as in mink and fox already. We have to face the fact that economics determines whether we can afford to trap. |
| 420 | | - odd jobs took up most time in past, so was unable to trap that much, now unemployed, so will be trapping all the time until jobs come up. |
| 420 | | - should have more patrols to enforce season closures or get rid of the seasons. |
| 420 | | - need more courses on fur handling and older trappers need to be told more about MRTA. |
| 420 | | - need more instruction on new traps and techniques. |
| 430 | WABOWDEN | - fur prices too low, costs too high to make a good living. |
| 430 | | - praises Wildlife Branch for their good work. |

| | | |
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| 430 | | - hopes trapping will remain a way of life in the north. |
| 430 | | - hopes the Wildlife Branch will continue to help the trapper and combat the ANTI campaigns. |
| 440 | THICKET-PORTATGE | - would like to be a trapline holder in Thicket Portage. |
| 440 | | - believes there are too many trappers able to hold registered lines because of government grants. Many of these trappers do not take care of their equipment and they are able to hold their lines even though they trap very little fur. |
| 450 | PIKWITONWEI- | questions about the use of the questionnaire. |
| 450 | | - doesn't understand the reasons behind the questionnaire. |
| 450 | | - tell ANTIs we are unwilling to stop trapping if they are unwilling to provide an income. |
| 500 | PUKATAWAGAN- | people steal traps.<br>- used to trap lynx, but closed last year.<br>- used to spend most of time fishing and trapping. |
| 500 | | - disagrees with regulation in which the helper on a hobby line loses the line when the holder leaves, the line is then awarded to the first trapper on the waiting list. |
| 500- | | - would like to know if lynx season will be open next year, as it is everybody's major income. Without a lynx season trappers won't be able to buy equipment. Most trappers didn't trap last year due to the closure of the lynx. |
| 500 | | - all trappers should pay for gas and machines at a commercial level.<br>- hydro should regulate water levels during trapping season. |

| | | |
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| 500 | | - likes trapping, but it is very hard to get assistance from anyone. When I have the money I buy what I can use to trap with. As you know the price of things are expensive.<br>- if possible Resources could put up some kind of training for a mechanic course so guys could learn to fix their own machines. |
| 500 | | - the anti-trapping movements like Greenpeace should leave the trappers and the sealing industry alone.<br>- people like ARDA should help out the young trappers that are starting out. When I started out I had to get everything on my own. I didn't get no help from no one, all the traps I got came out of my own pocket. machines too. |
| 500 | | - spent the last three years cutting trails didn't have much time for trapping. |
| 500 | | - Saskatchewan Hydro should start a beaver farm or fish farm to compensate for wildlife losses. |
| 510 | NELSON HOUSE | - hasn't trapped since '82 due to old age and inability to get around, although it is a way of life and tradition. |
| 510 | | - flooding is a big problem, hard to keep track of how many traps and snares are lost because of land slides, water fluctuations and travelling on dangerous ice. Slush and swift water damages boats and motors. |
| 510 | | - never heard of a Fur Schools.<br>- no communication between the trappers, the LFC and the MRTA.<br>- no support from municipal governments or the Band Councils.<br>- communication barrier between trappers and the LFC, some LFC members aren't very active. |
| 510 | | - major problem is water levels. It is too dangerous to get to the trapline in winter. Most of the animals drown or their houses get destroyed by the water when it goes up. |

| | | |
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| 510 | | - most northern trappers have problems with Hydro at some time or other, raise water levels in fall killing many beaver. |
| 520 | SPLIT LAKE- | costs going up but fur prices going down. |
| 520 | | - people neglect their sets. |
| 520 | | - get Hydro to help pay for trucks to go to the traplines because they flood the lakes. |
| 520 | | - trapping is main income, work at other jobs to get money for equipment, Conibear takes too long to set and seasons are too short. |
| 520 | | - fur prices have gone down so low. |
| 520 | | - too many people using junior trapline. |
| 520 | | - concerned over decreasing fur prices. |
| 530 | LIMESTONE | - the price of furs needs to go up so the trapper can make an honest living. |
| 530 | | - need money for aircraft charter to get to trapline. |
| 530 | | - northerners don't have very much input into government policy. |
| 540 | CHURCHILL | - used to trap for large portion of income, and was a helper on fathers line, now traps only as a hobby.<br>- anti-fur movement gets people in large cities upset against trapping, when in fact alot of anti-trapping sentiment centers on the use of leg-hold traps. |
| 540 | | - need to work closer with wildlife personnel to protect waterfowl and big game. |
| 540 | | - quit talking about the ANTIS, do something about them. |
| 540 | | - a dissertation on the philosophy of wildlife management, very well done. |

| | | |
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| 540 | | - concerned over fur prices and marketing.<br>- need effective advocates to assist trappers who have compensation to gain from Manitoba Hydro due to changes in water level, which has caused a decline in trapping and fishing income.<br>- need government subsidies to maintain and operate on trapline due to increase in cost of equipment and fees. |
| 540 | | - trapping is a legitimate use of wildlife resource, ANTIs are spoiling it and don't. |
| 550 | SHAMATTAWA | - would like to help out the trapper's association members if he had enough gear. |
| 550 | | - what is the meaning of the questionnaire. |
| 580 | SOUTHERN INDIAN LAKE | - supports trapping on cultural, economic and<br>- biological grounds, opposes ANTI arguements. |
| 590 | CHIPPEWYAN | - price of gas too high, price of fur too low.<br>- others got assistance in the form of materials and traps, he didn't get any even though it was needed. |

# APPENDIX III

## TRAPPER QUESTIONNAIRE
## and
## REMINDER CARD

## TRAPPER QUESTIONNAIRE

Please circle the answer or fill in the blank as required.
Individuals cannot be identified.

Definition of TRAPPING for the purpose of this questionnaire:

An activity which, under a valid trappers license, permits the holder to harvest furbearers with trapping device or with firearm within the limits of regulated seasons.

1) Indicate your Trapline Section _____

OR using the map, the Local Fur Council where you do most of your trapping _____

2) Do you do most of your trapping on Crown Land _____

on Private Land _____

3) Where do you live most of the time?
(name your City, town, village, reserve or post office)

_____

Do you live on a farm? ( ) yes ( ) no

4) What languages do you speak, read and write?
(Check as many as apply)

| | Most used | Can speak | Can read | Can write |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| English | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) |
| French | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) |
| Cree | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) |
| Saulteaux | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) |
| Chipewyan | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) |
| Ukrainian | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) |
| Other | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) | ( ) |

(please specify) _____

5) How many years have you trapped in your lifetime? _____ Years

6) In what year did you last trap? 19____

7) How many traps of each type do you own and use?

| Type | Number Owned | Number Used |
|---|---|---|
| Conibear | _____ | _____ |
| Steel leghold | _____ | _____ |
| Snares | _____ | _____ |
| Padded leghold | _____ | _____ |
| Other | _____ | _____ |
| None | ( ) | |

8) Do you use a firearm to take furbearers? ( ) yes ( ) no

How often ( ) some of the time
( ) most of the time
( ) all of the time

9) In your last season of trapping, for how many weeks were your traps actually set or how much time was spent pursuing furbearers with firearms?

( ) one week or less
( ) two to three weeks
( ) four to six weeks
( ) seven to ten weeks
( ) eleven to twenty weeks
( ) twenty-one or more weeks

Compared to other trapping seasons is this more than usual ( )
less than usual ( )
about the same ( )

10) In your last trapping season what were the <u>three main</u> species you trapped for?

( ) Badger ( ) Bear ( ) Beaver ( ) Coyote

( ) Ermine ( ) Fisher ( ) White Fox ( ) Lynx

( ) Red Fox (Cross and Silver) ( ) Marten ( ) Mink

( ) Muskrat ( ) Otter ( ) Raccoon ( ) Squirrel

( ) Wolf ( ) Wolverine

11) In your last trapping season what part of your total income came from fur sales?

| | |
|---|---|
| ( ) Less than $100 | ( ) less than 10% |
| ( ) $101 to $500 | ( ) 11 to 25% |
| ( ) $501 to $1000 | ( ) 26 to 50% |
| ( ) $1001 to $2000 | ( ) 51 to 75% |
| ( ) $2001 to $5000 | ( ) more than 75% |
| ( ) more than $5000 | |

Is this more than usual ( )
less than usual ( )
about the same ( )

12) Do you use the meat of animals caught? ( ) yes ( ) no
What do you use it for?

( ) to eat yourself
( ) for bait
( ) dog/animal food
( ) other

Do you keep any of the fur for your own use, (handicrafts, rugs)?
( ) yes ( ) no

13) Why do you trap?

( ) Income
( ) Predator and/or nuisance animal control
( ) Hobby
( ) Tradition
( ) Other

14) Have you attended a Department of Natural Resources Fur School?
( ) no ( ) yes year _____

15) Have you heard of the Manitoba Registered Trappers Association?
( ) no ( ) yes

Are you a paid-up member of Manitoba Registered Trappers Association?
( ) no ( ) yes

16) Where do you sell <u>most</u> of your fur?

( ) On Auction
( ) At a Fur Table
( ) To a local buyer
( ) To a travelling buyer
( ) Other (please explain) _____

Do you sell any of your fur privately? ( ) yes ( ) no

Do you sell other parts of the animals (castors, tails, claws etc.)?

( ) yes ( ) no

17) What is the most important issue concerning you the Manitoba trapper and your trapline?

( ) Fur prices/fur marketing
( ) The anti-trapping movement
( ) Trapping seasons
( ) Bush clearing
( ) Lack of humane trapping devices
( ) Cost of equipment and fuel
( ) Manitoba Hydro water regulation
( ) Fur farming and ranching
( ) None
( ) Other (please explain)

_____

_____

18) Sex M ( ) F ( )

19) Indicate your age group

( ) under 16
( ) 16 - 25
( ) 26 - 35
( ) 36 - 45
( ) 46 - 55
( ) 56 - 65
( ) over 65

20) Is trapping your main occupation? yes ( ) no ( )

What other types of work do you do?

( ) Farm
( ) Skilled Labour
( ) Manual Labour
( ) Teach
( ) Student
( ) Retired
( ) Commercial Fishing
( ) Fire Management
( ) Mining
( ) Other (please explain) _____

- 5 -

21) What is your major source of income?_____

In your last trapping season what was your total income from all sources?

Total yearly income
0-$ 2000 ( )
$2000-$ 5000 ( )
$5000-$10000 ( )
$10000-$20000 ( )
over $20000 ( )

Is this higher than usual ( )
lower than usual ( )
about the same ( )

22) Circle the highest education level completed.

Elementary and Secondary - grade 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Business or Technical 1 2 3 4+

University 1 2 3 4 5 6+

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Biological Services
Wildlife Branch
Box 14, 1495 St. James St.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3H 0W9

Dear trapper,

This card is just to remind you to fill out and send in your trapper questionnaire, mailed to your earlier. If you have already done so, we thank you for your promptness and co-operation. If you have not yet returned it please do so immediately.

Your co-operation will be appreciated.

# APPENDIX IV

# ADDITIONAL DATA

Table A: No. of respondents using each language.

| | English | | | | French | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Group | Most Used No. | Speak No. | Read No. | Write No. | Most Used No. | Speak No. | Read No. | Write No. |
| Northern | 127 | 186 | 174 | 168 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| Eastern | 38 | 36 | 35 | 34 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Western | 62 | 55 | 54 | 51 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Open Area | 529 | 433 | 427 | 425 | 6 | 72 | 56 | 46 |
| Total | 756 | 710 | 690 | 678 | 6 | 84 | 63 | 51 |

| | Cree | | | | Saulteax | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Group | Most Used No. | Speak No. | Read No. | Write No. | Most Used No. | Speak No. | Read No. | Write No. |
| Northern | 105 | 100 | 40 | 40 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 2 |
| Eastern | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| Western | 6 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Open Area | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 3 | 2 |
| Total | 114 | 120 | 42 | 41 | 12 | 38 | 6 | 5 |

| | Chipewyan | | | | Ukrainian | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Group | Most Used No. | Speak No. | Read No. | Write No. | Most Used No. | Speak No. | Read No. | Write No. |
| Northern | 5 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Eastern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Western | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 2 |
| Open Area | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 60 | 21 | 19 |
| Total | 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 74 | 25 | 23 |

| | Other | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Group | Most Used No. | Speak No. | Read No. | Write No. |
| Northern | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Eastern | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Western | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Open Area | 1 | 40 | 11 | 8 |
| Total | 2 | 50 | 14 | 11 |

Table B: Respondents who use and do not use traps.

| Group | N | No traps Used % | Traps Used % |
|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 209 | 0.9±2.1 | 26.3±2.1 |
| Eastern | 43 | 0.3±5.3 | 5.3±5.3 |
| Western | 60 | 0.5±5.3 | 7.3±5.3 |
| Open Area | 455 | 11.1±3.0 | 48.2±3.0 |
| Total | 767 | 12.8±2.0 | 87.2±2.0 |

Table C: Land ownership of trapline area (90% confidence interval)

| Group | N | Crown % | Private % |
|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 251 | 100±0 | 0 |
| Eastern | 50 | 100±0 | 0 |
| Western | 76 | 76±0 | 0 |
| Open Area | 493 | 36.9±3.6 | 63.1±3.6 |
| Total | 870 | 64.3±2.7 | 35.7±2.7 |

Table D: Weeks spent trapping vs. age of northern respondents (90% confidence interval).

| Age | N | Weeks 1 % | 2-3 % | 4-6 % | 7-10 % | 11-20 % | 21 % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 6 | 16.7±25.0 | 50.0±33.6 | 16.7±25.0 | 0 | 16.7±11.2 | 0 |
| 16-25 | 30 | 23.3±12.7 | 10.0± 9.0 | 10.0± 9.0 | 23.3±12.7 | 16.7±11.2 | 16.7±11.2 |
| 26-35 | 57 | 19.3± 8.6 | 14.0± 7.6 | 24.6± 9.4 | 22.8± 9.1 | 15.8± 7.9 | 3.5± 4.0 |
| 36-45 | 40 | 25.0±11.3 | 10.0± 7.8 | 20.0±10.4 | 17.5± 9.9 | 17.5± 9.9 | 10.0± 7.8 |
| 46-55 | 45 | 20.0± 9.8 | 13.3± 8.3 | 11.1± 7.7 | 24.4±10.5 | 20.0± 9.8 | 11.1± 7.7 |
| 56-65 | 37 | 13.5± 9.2 | 13.5± 9.2 | 24.3±11.6 | 18.9±10.6 | 10.8± 8.4 | 18.9±10.6 |
| 65 | 23 | 13.0±11.6 | 26.1±15.1 | 30.4±15.8 | 8.7± 9.7 | 13.0±11.6 | 8.7± 9.7 |

Table E: Weeks spent trapping vs. age of eastern respondents (90% confidence interval).

| Age | N | Weeks 1 % | 2-3 % | 4-6 % | 7-10 % | 11-20 % | 21 % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16-25 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 100.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26-35 | 12 | 0 | 25.0±20.6 | 8.3±13.1 | 33.3±22.4 | 33.3±22.4 | 0 |
| 36-45 | 8 | 12.5±19.2 | 25.0±25.2 | 12.5±19.2 | 0 | 37.5±28.2 | 12.5±19.2 |
| 46-55 | 7 | 0 | 14.3±21.8 | 42.9±30.8 | 0 | 42.9±30.8 | 0 |
| 56-65 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 27.3±22.1 | 27.3±22.1 | 27.3±22.1 | 18.2±19.1 |
| 65 | 6 | 50.0±33.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33.3±31.7 | 16.7±25.0 |

Table F: Weeks spent trapping vs. age of western respondents (90% confidence interval)

| Age | N | Weeks 1 % | 2-3 % | 4-6 % | 7-10 % | 11-20 % | 21 % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 6 | 16.7±25.0 | 50.0±33.6 | 16.7±25.0 | 0 | 16.7±11.2 | 0 |
| 16-25 | 30 | 23.3±12.7 | 10.0± 9.0 | 10.0± 9.0 | 23.3±12.7 | 16.7±11.2 | 16.7±11.2 |
| 26-35 | 57 | 19.3± 8.6 | 14.0± 7.6 | 24.6± 9.4 | 22.8± 9.1 | 15.8± 7.9 | 3.5± 4.0 |
| 36-45 | 40 | 25.0±11.3 | 10.0± 7.8 | 20.0±10.4 | 17.5± 9.9 | 17.5± 9.9 | 10.0± 7.8 |
| 46-55 | 45 | 20.0± 9.8 | 13.3± 8.3 | 11.1± 7.7 | 24.4±10.5 | 20.0± 9.8 | 11.1± 7.7 |
| 56-65 | 37 | 13.5± 9.2 | 13.5± 9.2 | 24.3±11.6 | 18.9±10.6 | 10.8± 8.4 | 18.9±10.6 |
| 65 | 23 | 13.0±11.6 | 26.1±15.1 | 30.4±15.8 | 8.7± 9.7 | 13.0±11.6 | 8.7± 9.7 |

Table G: Weeks spent trapping vs. age of open area trappers (90% confidence interval).

| Age | N | Weeks 1 % | 2-3 % | 4-6 % | 7-10 % | 11-20 % | 21 % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 11 | 9.1±14.3 | 36.4±23.9 | 9.1±14.3 | 9.1±14.3 | 36.4±23.9 | 0 |
| 16-25 | 107 | 15.0± 5.7 | 25.2± 6.9 | 29.9± 7.3 | 15.0± 5.7 | 9.3± 4.6 | 5.6± 3.7 |
| 26-35 | 129 | 20.9± 5.9 | 26.4± 6.4 | 25.6± 6.3 | 14.7± 5.1 | 9.3± 4.2 | 3.1± 1.5 |
| 36-45 | 109 | 33.0± 7.4 | 21.1± 6.4 | 22.9± 6.6 | 17.4± 6.0 | 5.5± 3.6 | 0 |
| 46-55 | 69 | 13.0± 6.7 | 39.1± 9.7 | 20.0± 9.0 | 10.1± 6.0 | 2.9± 3.3 | 5.8± 4.6 |
| 56-65 | 44 | 6.8± 6.3 | 34.1±11.8 | 34.1±11.8 | 11.4± 7.9 | 9.1± 7.1 | 4.5± 5.2 |
| 65 | 56 | 23.2± 9.3 | 10.7± 6.8 | 39.3±10.7 | 14.3± 7.7 | 8.9± 6.3 | 3.6± 4.1 |

Table H: Weeks spent trappng vs. age of all respondents (90% confidence interval).

| Age | N | Weeks 1 % | 2-3 % | 4-6 % | 7-10 % | 11-20 % | 21 % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 17 | 11.8±12.9 | 41.2±19.6 | 11.8±12.9 | 5.9± 9.4 | 29.4±18.2 | 0 |
| 16-25 | 144 | 16.0± 5.0 | 20.8± 5.6 | 29.2± 6.2 | 16.0± 5.0 | 10.4± 4.2 | 7.6± 3.6 |
| 26-35 | 214 | 19.2± 4.4 | 21.5± 4.6 | 24.3± 4.8 | 19.6± 4.5 | 12.1± 3.7 | 3.3± 2.0 |
| 36-45 | 172 | 29.7± 5.7 | 17.4± 4.8 | 22.7± 5.3 | 15.7± 4.6 | 10.5± 3.8 | 4.1± 2.5 |
| 46-55 | 131 | 16.0± 5.3 | 26.7± 6.4 | 22.1± 6.0 | 15.3± 5.2 | 10.7± 4.4 | 9.2± 4.2 |
| 56-65 | 105 | 13.5± 9.2 | 22.9± 6.7 | 25.7± 7.0 | 18.1± 6.2 | 12.4± 5.3 | 13.3± 5.5 |
| 65 | 98 | 7.6± 4.3 | 14.3± 5.8 | 33.7± 7.9 | 11.2± 5.7 | 12.2± 5.4 | 8.2± 4.5 |

Table I: Major income source of questionnaire respondents (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | Job % | Trapping % |
|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 208 | 68.3±5.3 | 31.7±5.3 |
| Eastern | 41 | 82.9±9.7 | 17.1±9.7 |
| Western | 67 | 82.1±7.7 | 17.9±7.7 |
| Open Area | 496 | 97.6±1.1 | 2.4±1.1 |
| Total | 812 | 88.1±1.9 | 11.9±1.9 |

Table J: Education level completed by questionnaire respondents. (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | No Schooling % | Grade 1 % | Grade 2 % | Grade 3 % | Grade 4 % | Grade 5 % | Grade 6 % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 263 | 10.2±3.4 | 3.0±1.9 | 2.7±1.8 | 3.4±2.1 | 3.8±2.2 | 3.8±2.2 | 8.0±3.0 |
| Eastern | 54 | 0 | 3.7±4.2 | 0 | 7.4±5.9 | 1.9±3.0 | 1.9±3.0 | 3.7±4.2 |
| Western | 75 | 4.0±3.7 | 0 | 2.7±3.1 | 6.7±4.7 | 4.0±3.7 | 2.7±3.1 | 14.7±6.7 |
| Open Area | 604 | 0.5±0.5 | 0.5±0.5 | 1.2±0.7 | 0.5±0.5 | 1.3±0.8 | 2.5±1.0 | 3.5±1.2 |
| Total | 996 | 3.3±0.9 | 1.3±0.6 | 1.6±0.7 | 2.1±0.7 | 2.2±0.8 | 2.8±0.9 | 5.5±1.2 |

| Group | Grade 7 % | Grade 8 % | Grade 9 % | Grade 10 % | Grade 11 % | Grade 12 % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 7.2±2.9 | 12.9±3.8 | 8.4±3.1 | 12.5±3.2 | 2.3±1.7 | 10.6±3.5 |
| Eastern | 13.0±7.5 | 16.7±8.3 | 1.9±3.0 | 14.8±8.0 | 7.4±5.9 | 13.0±7.5 |
| Western | 12.0±6.2 | 16.0±7.0 | 6.7±4.7 | 13.3±6.5 | 5.3±4.3 | 6.7±4.7 |
| Open Area | 3.8±1.3 | 11.6±2.1 | 9.6±2.0 | 14.6±2.4 | 11.8±2.2 | 22.7±2.8 |
| Total | 5.8±1.2 | 12.5±1.7 | 8.6±1.5 | 14.0±1.8 | 8.5±1.5 | 17.8±2.0 |

| | Post Secondary | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Community College | | University | | |
| Group | % | % | % | % | % |
| Northern | 1.1±1.2 | 3.4±2.1 | 1.5±1.4 | 1.5±1.4 | 0.7±1.0 |
| Eastern | 0 | 5.6±5.1 | 0 | 1.9±3.0 | 0 |
| Western | 0 | 1.3±2.2 | 1.3±2.2 | 0 | 1.3±2.2 |
| Open Area | 4.6±1.4 | 3.1±1.2 | 0.7±0.5 | 2.5±1.0 | 1.3±0.8 |
| Total | 3.1±0.9 | 3.2±0.9 | 0.9±0.5 | 2.0±0.7 | 1.1±0.5 |

| | University | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Group | % | % | % |
| Northern | 1.1±1.2 | 0 | 1.1±1.2 |
| Eastern | 1.9±3.0 | 1.9±3.0 | 3.7±4.2 |
| Western | 0 | 1.3±2.2 | 0 |
| Open Area | 1.5±0.8 | 0.8±0.6 | 1.5±0.8 |
| Total | 1.3±0.6 | 0.8±0.5 | 1.4±0.6 |

Table K: Other occupation of respondents whose main occupation was trapping (90% confidende interval).

| Group | N | Commercial Fisherman % | Manual Labour % | Other % | Retired % | Skilled Labour % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 125 | 26.4+ 6.5 | 24.8+ 6.4 | 13.6+ 5.0 | 12.8+ 4.9 | 8.0+ 4.0 |
| Eastern | 14 | 28.6+20.0 | 14.3+15.4 | 42.9+21.8 | 7.1+11.3 | 7.1+11.3 |
| Western | 21 | 23.8+15.3 | 23.8+15.3 | 4.8+ 7.6 | 19.0+14.1 | 0 |
| Open Area | 22 | 9.1+10.1 | 9.1+10.1 | 22.7+14.7 | 18.2+13.5 | 13.6+12.0 |
| Total | 182 | 24.2+ 5.2 | 22.0+ 5.0 | 15.9+ 4.4 | 13.7+ 4.2 | 7.7+ 3.2 |

Table K: Continued

| Group | Fire Mgmt. % | Farmer % | Student % | Miner % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 9.6+ 4.3 | 0.8+ 1.3 | 3.2+ 2.6 | 0.8+1.3 |
| Eastern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Western | 9.5+10.5 | 14.1+19.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Open Area | 0 | 12.0+13.6 | 13.6+12.0 | 0 |
| Total | 7.7+ 3.2 | 4.4+ 2.5 | 3.8+ 2.3 | 0.5+0.9 |

Table L: Occupations of respondents whose main occupation was not trapping (90% confidence interval).

| Group | N | Farmer % | Skilled Labour % | Other % | Retired % | Manual Labour % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 113 | 0 | 33.6± 7.3 | 13.3± 5.3 | 7.1±4.0 | 10.6±4.8 |
| Eastern | 33 | 0 | 30.3±13.1 | 18.2±11.0 | 12.1±9.3 | 6.1±6.8 |
| Western | 53 | 32.1±10.5 | 3.8± 4.3 | 7.5± 6.0 | 13.2±7.6 | 11.3±7.2 |
| Open Area | 509 | 35.5± 3.5 | 22.8± 3.1 | 12.9± 2.5 | 10.2±2.2 | 9.3±2.2 |
| Total | 726 | 28.1± 2.7 | 23.4± 2.6 | 12.8± 2.0 | 10.1±1.8 | 9.5±1.8 |

Table L: Continued

| Group | Commercial Fisherman % | Student % | Fire Management % | Miner % | Teacher % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 16.8± 5.8 | 6.2±3.7 | 5.3±3.5 | 5.3±3.5 | 1.8±2.0 |
| Eastern | 21.1±11.7 | 0 | 9.1±8.2 | 3.0±4.9 | 0 |
| Western | 28.3±10.2 | 0 | 3.8±4.3 | 0 | 0 |
| Open Area | 2.8± 1.2 | 5.5±1.7 | 0.4±0.5 | 0 | 0.6±0.6 |
| Total | 7.7± 1.6 | 5.0±1.3 | 1.8±0.8 | 1.0±0.6 | 0.7±0.5 |